

Lucent executive heads list of 'most powerful' U.S. businesswomen

NEW YORK (AP) — Carly Fiorina, a top executive at the telecom giant Lucent Technologies, heads a list of the 50 most powerful U.S. businesswomen. Fortune magazine said Monday. Most of the women work in advertising, media, entertainment and publishing companies. Heading the list is Fiorina, who heads a division of Lucent Technologies, a company with annual revenues of \$19 billion. The next nine powerful women are: Television star Oprah Winfrey; Hedi Markovitz, chief financial officer of Travelers Group; Sherry Lazarus, chairman, CEO of Ogilvy and Mather Worldwide; Sherry Lansing, chairman, Motion Picture Group; Barad, chairman and CEO of Mattel; Marilyn Carlson Nelson, CEO of CalComp; Andrea Jung, president of Avon Products; and Abby Jacobson, co-chair of investment policy at Goldman Sachs.

Twins win French culinary award

PARIS (AP) — Jacques and Laurent Perrier, owners of the three-star "Les Sens" restaurant in southern Montpellier, have been named "Chef of the Year" by the magazine "Le Cordon Rouge". The twins, aged 35 and 37, described as "chefs prodigieux" by the French press, up the Montpellier restaurant to a new level. They became famous as a stuffed and roasted fish and a tomato pie. "Chef of the Year" named by secret ballot chefs voted in the prestigious Michelin guide. The twins work on the French and European cuisines, winning the award in 1997. They were given a three-star by the guide for their "Mediterranean-style cuisine" and "new price".

Murdoch's house for sale

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Media mogul Rupert Murdoch and his wife, Anna, have put a Beverly Hills house on the market for \$10 million. The couple, who filed for divorce in 1995, owned the home in the Hollywood Hills. The Mediterranean-style home, built in 1927, has a director's office and a bedroom and bathroom with a circular skylight and a wishing well. The house has a pool.

Top French jewellers unhappy about film starring Deneuve

PARIS — The Vendôme, a new film about diamonds and jewelry, has upset the country's top jewellers. A statement, the association of "haute jewellery" said, claimed that the film depicted a family of jewellers as "reducing an entire perfectly respectable profession to a gaudy farce." "Place Vendôme" is a film about the same name of some of the world's top jewellers have set up. Directed by Jean-Guillaume Gascia, the film's best actress prize for the role of Italy's most famous earlier this month.

## King in Washington

WASHINGTON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday arrived here on a short private visit after he finished the third stage of his medical treatment. Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Marwan Muasher said, Muasher added that the third stage was successfully completed, pointing that the King enjoys very good health and high morale.

# Jordan Times

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## House casts vote of confidence today

By Fairouz Abu-Ghazaleh

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament is expected to cast a vote of confidence in Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh's government following a three-day debate in which deputies urged the Cabinet to combat corruption, unemployment and poverty and halt the normalisation process with Israel while focusing on strengthening Arab ties.

In an unprecedented move during yesterday's second day of debate, three parliamentary blocs in addition to independent and opposition figures — grouping 53 deputies — presented a unified statement which many described as a comprehensive programme that tackled the country's political, social and economic issues.

"In our debate of the government's policy statement we ought to demonstrate the highest level of vigilance and responsibility, acting in His Majesty King Hussein's absence exactly as we would in his presence so we can stand united in handling the nation's problems," said former Justice Minister Abdul Karim Dughmi, who spoke on behalf of the 53 lawmakers.

Dughmi said that was the reason behind the "exceptional" stand of his fellow deputies in presenting their views in one statement in reply to the prime minister's address, presented to the House last week.

The 53 deputies are also planning to grant Tarawneh's 23-man team a vote of confidence provided that government's performance come under review after a six-month period when the House will consider further support.

"To re-emphasise our positive spirit, we have decided to give the government a chance to enable it to carry out part of its programmes and then meet with it one month before the end of the coming ordinary session to discuss our confidence in the government," Dughmi, told the 80-seat House.

In addition to other deputies, the 53 lawmakers asked the government to stop normalisation of ties with Israel. "Our commitment to the peace treaty falls within the framework of securing comprehensive peace," said Dughmi, a deputy representing the Mafraq district. "But as the negotiations on all Arab-Israeli tracks are deadlocked as a result of Israel's arrogance and intransigence and because the higher Arab interests supersede any other consideration, as the government has pointed out, we demand a halt to normalisation with Israel as we only see this process as serving Israel's interests."

Most of the 15 deputies who spoke during Wednesday's session, including the deputies who presented the unified statement, stressed on the importance of enhancing Jordan's ties with Arab countries — harmed by the Kingdom's

four-year-old peace treaty with Israel.

"We call on the government to launch a serious campaign to strengthen Jordan's ties with the other Arab countries with the hope of highlighting Jordan's status in the Arab World and reinstating its key role in pan-Arab affairs," lawmakers said in their unified statement. "Our relations with the Arab World constitute our strategic depth which we must preserve and develop."

Most deputies did not fail to address the country's pressing problems of high unemployment and poverty.

"The country is going through a severe socio-economic crisis," Madaba Deputy Nashed Hamehneh told the chamber. "It is characterised by increasing rates of unemployment, expansion of poverty coupled with a fading middle class."

The government has said 30 per cent of the population live in either absolute or relative poverty while 15 per cent of the workforce are unemployed. Independent estimates, however, put joblessness at around 27 per cent among the country's 4.2 million people.

Fighting corruption, nepotism and red-tape were overriding concerns among the deputies who spoke during the first and second day of debate.

"We would like to point out that corruption has become rampant within the public administration and within some private sector institu-

tions," the 53 deputies said in their joint statement.

"Corruption has become a dangerous disease eating up the economic and social structure and posing a very serious threat to the future of this nation."

The lawmakers asked the government to "be firm" in dealing with corruption and to uproot it by striking hard at the sources of corruption and those who abuse their power in order to achieve personal gain at the expense of public funds.

Ma'an deputy Walid Awajan said the constant change in the makeup of governments prevents ministers and governments from rising to their task and introducing serious changes or developments in the country.

"The short mandate of our governments and the constant and frequent changes and reshuffles lead to weaker achievements and to haphazard policies," Awajan said. "This does not allow governments to translate their policies into concrete action."

Since 1989, the country has witnessed eight governments, none of which served for more than two years.

Analysts expect Tarawneh's government, mandated on Aug. 20, to obtain around 60 votes. They could not predict, however, if the Cabinet will be able to break the record of former Prime Minister Mudar Badran's government which gained 64 votes in 1989.

## Crown Prince: Upgrading higher education a priority

By Randa Naffa

AMMAN — HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, told a one-day seminar yesterday that upgrading higher education in the Arab World should be considered a priority to enable qualified people to cater to rapid international changes.

Speaking at the opening session of the seminar organised by Arab Thought Forum and the Association of Arab Private Institutions for Higher Education, entitled "Quality of Higher Education — in Theory and Practice" the Crown prince said, "what is important is not the availability of university seats but rather adapting education to the national requirement of human resources."

He added that upgrading the quality of higher education requires focusing upon scientific research, interaction between the university and society, cooperation between the different departments inside the university, and the need for more interaction between Arab institutes of higher education.

The Regent urged the parity, which included Arab and Jordanian academics,



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan addresses the opening session of a seminar on higher education on Wednesday (Photo by Boghos)

Arab interests, and in identifying Arab and Islamic human rights," the Crown Prince said.

He emphasised the importance of encouraging independent Arab thought, pointing out that His Majesty King Hussein's support for the Arab Thought Forum was a primary reason for the rise of this independent institute

concerned with objective dealings with Arab issues, and problems.

Addressing the seminar, the forum's Secretary General Ali Unaika said, higher education is considered an essential element in the process of development, and financing it is an investment with a high return.

(Continued on page 7)

## Iraq counting on Annan to solve crisis

Agencies

IRAQ HAS said it is counting on U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to defuse the crisis over U.N. weapons inspections in the sanctions-hit state.

"Iraq is counting on the role of the U.N. secretary general. We will wait to see what he will do over the next few days," Iraq's Vice President Tahya Yassin Ramadan said late Tuesday.

Annan has proposed a "comprehensive review" of sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, following a U.N. resolution to suspend all sanctions reviews until Iraq cooperates with weapons inspections.

Annan briefed the Security Council Tuesday on his "comprehensive review" of Iraqi sanctions that could lead to lifting of the oil embargo with "less than 100 per cent" Iraqi

disarmament, diplomats said. Earlier, Annan briefed the five permanent council members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

One diplomat said there was no debate on the secretary general's plan.

Iraq on Aug. 5 suspended all cooperation with the U.N. weapons inspectors until the organisation is reformed and last week threatened to break off all cooperation if sanctions

reviews are not restarted.

Under U.N. resolutions, U.N. weapons inspectors must certify that Iraq no longer has weapons of mass destruction or long range missiles before sanctions are lifted.

Iraq has reacted favourably to Annan's proposal and Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz is expected to meet Annan in New York on Sept. 28 to discuss it.

## Iran adopts unprecedented military posture on Afghanistan border

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran's armed forces have completed an unprecedented buildup along the border with Afghanistan to counter any potential threat from the Taliban Islamic militia, officials said Wednesday.

After a month of rhetoric against the Islamist Sunni Muslim militia and the movement of troops to the border, the army said Wednesday it had all the weaponry and equipment needed to defend the country in place in Khorasan province, bordering Afghanistan.

"The military command is operational in Khorasan," said an unnamed army official, quoted by the press.

"We are fully prepared to hear orders from the commander-in-

chief of the armed forces," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is also the country's supreme leader, the official added.

Another army official, General Hassan Barati, described as a "success" the movement of troops to the border from all parts of the country.

"All is ready and in place to start the big manoeuvres," he said, citing the deployment of some 500 tanks and light armoured vehicles as well as many pieces of artillery.

The army is gearing up to launch its biggest manoeuvres, involving 200,000 men, some time within the next two weeks near the border in Khorasan and Sistan-Baluchistan provinces.

Around 70,000 troops of the

elite Revolutionary Guards have been stationed at the border since holding exercises there early this month.

In an unprecedented move, the army and the air force will also hold a parade this week in Mashhad, the main city in Khorasan province, officials said.

Defence Minister Ali Shamkhani and several other senior army officials are to attend the parade, which will include some of the troops dispatched to the region.

Tension between Shiite Muslim Iran and the Sunni Taliban has been rising since last month's murders of eight Iranian diplomats and an Iranian diplomat by Taliban militia in the northern Afghan city of

Mazar-e Sharif.

Iran has also gone on a diplomatic offensive against the Taliban.

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami told the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Monday that his country would try to avoid a clash with the Taliban and seek a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

"Iran is ready to defend its security and territorial integrity," he told a press conference on the sidelines of the assembly. "But we will do everything possible to avoid a war."

But military officials continue to issue threats of using force against the Taliban if the militia commits any aggression against Iran.

## Algeria's Zeroual asks parties to discuss poll

Agencies

OUTGOING ALGERIAN President Liamine Zeroual on Wednesday invited leaders of "legal" political parties for talks on elections planned for February to replace him.

State-run radio said Zeroual has sent written invitations to leaders of 11 parties represented in the parliament to discuss the "modalities and conditions" of the planned poll at a meeting next week.

Zeroual, who surprised the violence-racked North African nation with his decision to cut short his five-year term by 21 months, will also hold similar talks with a dozen of other

"legal" party heads, the radio said.

This means that the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) will be excluded from the talks, analysts said.

Among those invited for talks are the pro-government Islamic Movement for a Peaceful Society, which has 69 seats in the 360-member parliament and the National Democratic Rally (RND) which groups Zeroual's supporters and holds 156 seats.

In November 1995, Zeroual won Algeria's first multi-candidate presidential poll with more than 60 per cent of the vote on the promises of restoring peace, speeding up economic reforms

and stemming corruption. The FIS was banned from taking part in that election.

Analysts and diplomats have said that Zeroual was stepping down following a power struggle with the powerful military establishment which dominates Algeria's political life since independence from France in 1962.

The European Union (EU) on Wednesday called on Algeria to "reinforce the civilian element in government," in the wake of last week's publication of a U.N. panel's report on the situation in the country.

In a statement issued by its Austrian presidency, the EU said the visit of the U.N. mis-

sion was an "important step" towards dialogue between the international community and Algeria and expressed the hope that the north African country would "engage U.N. Human Rights mechanisms" as part of this dialogue.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, is attempting to persuade Algeria to allow an observer mission into the country.

"The EU believes it is indispensable to strengthen democratic pluralism and to reinforce the civilian element in government, which is now feasible," the statement said.



## Algerian rebels kill two; Tiaret bomb toll rises

ALGIERS (AFP) — The bodies of two young Algerian shepherds were found with their throats slit after they were kidnapped by an armed Islamic group in the west of the country, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The shepherds, aged 17 and 18, were found on Tuesday at Mustafa Ben Brahim, close to Sidi Bel Abbas, a day after they were abducted, the Nouvelle République daily reported.

The bodies of two small children killed by a bomb blast on Friday in Tiaret were found late Tuesday on the roof of a school in the western town, the same paper reported, raising the death toll to at least 29.

The bomb attack on a market killed 27 people and injured 125, according to the last official figures, while the media have put the death toll at between 29 and 42.

Another bomb was made safe on Tuesday in the eastern Algiers suburb of Al Harrach, after the alarm was raised by a man who spotted the device in a telephone centre, Al Khabar daily reported.

Press reports also said that soldiers, paramilitary police, local guards and self-defence militia forces had encircled Islamist groups in the Saida region, where Islamists fighting the regime have been under attack since Friday.

The operation was said to be targeting the leadership of the hardline Armed Islamic Group (GIA), reportedly reorganising its forces in the region, but no official statement has been released.

In a separate development, the head of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights (LADDH), Abdul Nour Ali Yahia, denounced what he called "state terrorism" and the existence of "occult armed groups" in the country.

Ali Yahia said "there are terrorists from armed Islamic groups, but there are also terrorists from occult armed groups," which he likened to "death squads" in an interview with the daily Jeune Independent.

"There is state terrorism... because the people are hostages of terrorists and of

the authorities at the same time," Ali Yahia declared, adding that "the army is obliged to repress not only those who have taken up arms, but also those who are thought to be helping them."

The LADDH leader added that "the way it is being conducted, the anti-terrorist struggle will bear no fruit. The whole method needs to be looked at afresh... each time a terrorist is killed, others always come forward to boost the numbers of the guerrillas."

The Tiaret bloodshed was portrayed as part of a new wave of violence that has left more than 70 people dead since Sept. 11, when Algerian President Liamine Zerrouk resigned.

Ali Yahia said that, in his view, the violence would continue until democracy came to Algeria.

"The real power is that of the army. Other institutions only carry out the important decisions taken by all the clans in the army," he charged. "The army decides, the presidency of the republic and the government carry out its decisions."



ARAB KNESSET MEMBER UNDER INVESTIGATION: Arab-Israelis carry bedouin member of Knesset Taleb Sanaa during a rally Wednesday in Beersheva in support of Sanaa, who is under police investigation for demanding revenge for the recent slaying of an Arab by an Israeli park ranger (AFP photo)

## Suspected Lebanese 'terrorist' denied refugee status, deported

WELLINGTON (AP) — A suspected Lebanese terrorist has been deported from New Zealand after being denied refugee status, a newspaper reported.

Izzat Ibrahim Al Ayubi, a member of Lebanese political groups that have been involved in terrorist bombings, shootings and kidnappings, was flown out to Lebanon last Friday.

Deported on the grounds he had committed crimes against humanity, Al Ayubi had been jailed since his arrival on a false passport on Aug. 22, the Manukau Daily News reported Tuesday.

Al Ayubi's Auckland lawyer, Colin Amery, believes Al Ayubi will be executed or imprisoned on his return.

Al Ayubi, 33, was arrested at Auckland airport as he entered the country, charged with using a false passport and held in custody at Mount Eden prison until he was deported.

An Immigration Service report on the case, quoted by the Daily News, states that Al Ayubi is wanted by the Lebanese army and by the Syrian secret police, and that Lebanese parliamentarians want him "out of the

way." It said Al Ayubi joined political parties with terrorist ideologies from 1984.

The report said Al Ayubi is now a member of the political party Tripoli Resistance, and the leader of one of its factions.

The Syrian secret police want Al Ayubi for fighting against Syrian armed forces.

The Lebanese army wants him for desertion and stealing a truck full of weapons. And Lebanese parliamentarians want Al Ayubi "out of the way" because in 1993 he distributed pamphlets claiming they accepted

bribes. The Immigration Service decision to decline Al Ayubi's refugee status application and deport him was based on his involvement in the Movement of Islamic Union (Harakat Al Tawheed Al Islami).

The party followed the ideology of the radical wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, which is "internationally recognised as a terrorist group," the report said.

Before his deportation, Al Ayubi was convicted and discharged by an Otago District Court judge on the false passport charge.

## Egypt praises Clinton's terrorism address to U.N.

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa has expressed his country's gratitude to U.S. President Bill Clinton for rejecting any link between Islam and terrorism, the government press reported Wednesday.

"I would like to express the deep gratitude and appreciation of Egypt and the entire Arab and Muslim World to President Clinton" for having defended Islam during his address Monday to the U.N. General Assembly, Musa said.

Musa also "saluted" Clinton for having refused to establish a link between Islam and terrorism in his speech, the government daily Al Ahrar reported.

In his speech, Clinton sought to assuage Muslim concerns of an anti-Islamic backlash, insisting that a global fight against terrorism should not constitute a "clash of civilisations."

"When it comes to terrorism, there should be no dividing line between Muslims and Jews, Protestants and Catholics, Serbs and Albanians, developed societies and emerging economies," Clinton said.

Musa, who is attending the U.N. General Assembly in New York, said Clinton's position "goes hand in hand with Egyptian policies which are favourable to the struggle against terrorism."

He recalled calls by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to convene an international conference on terrorism.

## Court upholds verdict on Istanbul mayor

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's high court of appeals Wednesday upheld a verdict passed by a lower court against Istanbul's Islamist mayor, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was sentenced to 10 months in prison for incitement to racial hatred.

Considered the heir apparent of the historic leader of the Islamist movement in Turkey Necmettin Erbakan, Erdogan will now go to prison, lose his job as Istanbul's mayor and be barred from running in future elections under Turkish law.

Erdogan, 44, was convicted in May for making a political rally earlier this year "Mosques are our garisons, domes our shields and minarets our bayonets."

His remarks were interpreted by chief prosecutor Vural Savas as "an apparent call for an Islamic holy war" against Turkey's secular regime.

## Senior Palestinian security official shot

NABLUS (AFP) — The head of Palestinian special forces in the northern West Bank town of Nablus was shot by a rogue policeman he was trying to arrest, witnesses said.

Colonel Castro Salameh was shot in the hand, the leg and the chin Tuesday night by a Palestinian policeman in the village of

Anabta, Northwest of Nablus, they said.

Salameh was rushed to hospital where his condition was described as serious but not life-threatening.

Other security forces had detained the policeman, although the reason for his arrest was not immediately clear.

## Sudanese army says it killed 70 Ugandan soldiers in south Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese army on Wednesday said it had killed more than 70 Ugandan soldiers "recently" in the south of Sudan, in a statement published by the official daily Al Anbaa.

Army spokesman General Abdul Rahman Khatim said that Sudanese soldiers had "recently inflicted heavy losses on Ugandan forces, killing 70 soldiers and notably destroying 15 tanks and three armoured cars," but he did not say when or where the battle took place.

Khatim on Tuesday accused the Ugandan army of continuing, with Entrea, to provide direct backing for south Sudanese rebels who have

fought Khartoum governments since 1983.

On September 16, Khartoum claimed that troops of the current Islamist-backed military regime had killed 50 Ugandan soldiers and rebels of Colonel John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), again without giving a date.

The Ugandan government in Kampala denied any such incident.

Khatim on Wednesday denied SPLA claims that its rebels were advancing on Juba, the main southern town, and stated that government forces "currently control all fronts" in the south.

Last week, a spokesman for the

SPLA, the mainstream rebel movement that has been fighting to free the mainly animist and Christian south from domination by the Arabised, Muslim north, stated that Garang's forces had taken the strategic garrison towns of Liria and Juba, 50 and 45 kilometres south of Juba.

While Khartoum accuses Kampala of supporting the SPLA, the Ugandan government charges that Sudanese government forces back Ugandan rebels operating out of southern Sudan, notably the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which purports to want to set up a government based on the biblical Ten Commandments.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraq invites expatriates to meeting

BAGHDAD (AP) — The government has invited some 1,500 Iraqis who live outside the country to a meeting in Baghdad next month to "boost ties" with their homeland, the official Iraqi News Agency said Wednesday. A similar meeting for expatriates was held in October 1996. An estimated one million Iraqis live outside the country, IRNA said the three-day meeting would begin Oct. 5. The meeting will be "means to boost ties between Iraqi expatriates... with their home country," the agency quoted Abdul Jabbar Al Douri, deputy foreign minister, as saying. He gave no details of the meeting's agenda.

### Israel eases closures

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli army eased its closure of the Palestinian areas slightly on

Wednesday after sealing them for four days over the Jewish New Year holiday. A total of 23,000 Palestinian workers and businesspeople were allowed into Israel on Wednesday morning, Israeli army radio reported. A blanket closure was clamped on the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Sept. 12 for fear of retaliatory attacks by the Islamist group Hamas after Israel killed two fugitives of the group.

### Sudan denies troops in Congo

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan has denied it sent troops to the Congo to help the forces of Congolese President Laurent Kabila in their war against rebels. The official Sudan News Agency reported. The agency quoted Sudan's foreign minister, Mustafa Osman Ismail, as denying "the false allegations on [the] participation of Sudanese troops in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo," SUNA said.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 477311-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

### Thursday Programmes

15:10 ..... Cartoon — Animated Hero Classics  
15:30 ..... Drama — Star Runner  
16:00 ..... Doc. — L'Ecole des Fins  
16:30 ..... Doc. — Blue Water Dreaming  
17:00 ..... NBA  
18:15 ..... Sliders  
19:00 ..... Le Journal  
19:15 ..... Science Magazine — (L'Occur De Colomb)  
19:30 ..... News Headlines  
19:35 ..... Comedy — Family Matters  
20:00 ..... The Great Romances  
20:30 ..... Drama — Dr. Quinn the Medicine Woman  
21:10 ..... Oprah Winfrey  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature film — "Stormy Monday"  
23:59 ..... Comedy — Can't Hurry Love?  
00:30 ..... End of T.X.

Friday Programmes  
15:10 ..... Cartoon — The Adventures of Toddy Ruxpin  
15:30 ..... The Borrowers  
16:00 ..... Feature film — "Big Fish"  
18:15 ..... French quiz show — Les Cles de Fort Boyard  
19:00 ..... Le Journal  
19:15 ..... French Programme — Allo La Terre  
19:30 ..... News Headlines  
19:35 ..... Comedy — The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air  
20:00 ..... Life on the Digital Edge  
20:30 ..... Doc. — The Seven Wonders of the World  
21:10 ..... Babylon-5

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Big Sky (Ep. 7)  
23:59 ..... End of T.X.

### PRAYER TIMES

04:03 ..... Fajr  
05:20 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:28 ..... Dhuhur  
14:55 ..... 'Asr  
17:35 ..... Maghreb  
18:53 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811  
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751  
Amman International Church Tel. 5665897  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932  
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440  
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138  
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Scattered showers are expected in the northern areas, skies partly cloudy, temperatures below average, and winds northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Amman ..... 16/26  
Aqaba ..... 22/34  
Deserts ..... 14/29  
Jordan Valley ..... 21/34  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 26, Aqaba 33  
Humidity readings: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun ..... 22  
Jerash ..... 28  
Um Qays ..... 28

Madaba ..... 26  
Petra ..... 30  
Dead Seas ..... 34

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Khalidoun Asfour ..... 5332600  
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh ..... 4136011  
Dr. Tawfiq Qub'ain ..... 4623029  
Dr. Awad Hawandeh ..... 5332350  
Firas pharmacy ..... 5661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 4637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 4623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 4636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 4644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 4637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 5347632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Issam Al Salih ..... 246858  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Akram Haddad ..... 985550  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 4637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 5661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..... 4630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 4617101  
Blood Bank ..... 4775121  
Highway Police ..... 5343402  
Traffic Police ..... 4996390  
Public Security Dept. ..... 4630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 5605800  
Price Complaints ..... 5661176

Water & Sewerage Complaints ..... 4877467  
Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 4787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 4623101  
Abdali Tel. Repairs ..... 5661101  
Radio Jordan ..... 4774111  
Water Authority ..... 5680100  
J. Electricity Authority ..... 5815615  
Electric Power Co. .... 4636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 44-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 44-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199  
The Islamic, Abdli ..... 5666131/7  
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5856856  
Luzila ..... 4630195  
Khalidi Maternity ..... 4642816  
Akhleh Maternity ..... 4642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 4636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 5607071  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 5669131  
University Hospital ..... 5353444  
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667279  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 5664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 477101/3  
Al-Bashir ..... 4775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 4891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 5674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital

09:00 ..... (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)990990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

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### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:05 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
08:45 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
09:00 ..... Bombay (RJ)  
09:05 ..... Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
09:20 ..... Bahrain (RJ)  
09:25 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
09:40 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:20 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
14:55 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
16:30 ..... London (RJ)

17:45 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
18:10 ..... Athens (RJ)  
18:20 ..... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)  
18:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)  
22:55 ..... Larnaca (RJ)

### Other Flights

07:55 ..... Dubai (EK)  
10:00 ..... Kuwait (KU)  
12:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
13:10 ..... Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
14:10 ..... Sharjah (AH)  
14:40 ..... Doha (QR)  
17:40 ..... Beirut (ME)  
18:00 ..... Paris (AF)  
19:25 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
20:00 ..... Cairo (MS)  
20:10 ..... London (BA)  
22:30 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
22:35 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
23:05 ..... Moscow (SU)  
00:15 ..... Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)  
03:20 ..... Tunis (TU)  
04:20 ..... Antalya (TK)

Royal Wings (RW)  
(For Thursday and Friday)  
09:20 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA and proceeding to Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport on Thursday and Friday) (RW)  
19:20 ..... Tel Aviv (arriving at QAIA on Friday only) (RW)  
21:35 ..... Tel Aviv (arriving at QAIA on Thursday only) (RW)  
22:25 ..... Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

05:45 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:35 ..... Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
11:45 ..... London (BA)  
12:10 ..... Paris (RJ)  
12:20 ..... Athens (RJ)  
12:25 ..... London (RJ)  
19:35 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
20:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
20:25 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Dubai (RJ)  
23:30 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights  
05:15 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
06:50 ..... Frankfurt (LH)  
07:20 ..... London (BA)  
08:55 ..... Dubai (EK)  
08:55 ..... Damascus, Dubai (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Kuwait (KU)  
13:30 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
14:00 ..... Abu Dhabi (GF)  
15:00 ..... Annabab, Algiers (AF)  
15:30 ..... Doha (QR)  
19:00 ..... Beirut (ME)  
21:10 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
20:10 ..... Cairo (MS)  
00:30 ..... Moscow (SU)  
01:15 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
04:20 ..... Beirut, Tunis (TU)

Royal Wings  
(For Thursday and Friday)  
07:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)  
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport on Thursday and Friday) (RW)  
19:45 Tel Aviv (from QAIA — on Thursday only) (RW)  
20:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)







[illegible]





Looters strip bare shops and businesses in Maseru, the capital of Lesotho for a second day after South Africa and Botswana sent a military force to restore order in the southern African kingdom after nearly two months of anti-government protests. South Africa and Botswana sent troops and equipment into Lesotho Tuesday in response to an appeal for help by Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili who said his government had lost control of the army (Reuters photo)

# Shoot to kill, S. African intervention troops told

MASERU (AFP) — Southern African intervention troops were Wednesday issued with shoot-to-kill orders in the face of fierce resistance by Lesotho soldiers in a battle for control of a key barracks here, the South African military said.

Lesotho police, meanwhile, were unable to contain anarchy on the streets of what remains of this market town capital following a day and night of unbridled looting and arson by anti-government protesters.

A South African National Defence Force (SANDF) statement said nine South African soldiers have been killed in clashes with Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) members since Pretoria's troops entered Lesotho Tuesday.

Casualties suffered among the Lesotho troops amounted to approximately 40, the statement said, but a spokeswoman was unable to specify how many were killed and how many injured.

"Most of the casualties were people wounded," the spokeswoman, Colonel Laverne Machine, told AFP from Pretoria, adding that until now the intervention troops — 600 from South Africa and 200 from Botswana — had adopted a "soft approach."

But because of the "heavy aggression" being met from the Lesotho soldiers, the approach had changed.

"The gloves have come off," Machine said. "We now go in to kill."

The SANDF statement said "fierce resistance" was being encountered at the Makonyane military base outside Maseru, and correspondents reported intermittent shelling and firing throughout the morning in the hills surrounding the key barracks.

The statement indicated the intervention forces were encountering guerrilla-style resistance at the Makonyane base.

The intervention, on behalf of the 14-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC), follows the failure of diplomatic efforts to end the political crisis which began when opposition parties accused the government of fraud in a general election in May.

The centre of the town, meanwhile, was under siege Wednesday by looters, arsonists and vigilantes, with understaffed police battling to push back the tide of anarchy.

Angry businessmen stood on the corner of the main street, where a string of burnt-out shops and stores stretches for more than a kilometre, armed with pump-action shotguns, automatic weapons and handguns, opening fire on looters and arsonists.

They hit no one but seemed satisfied they had scared off the youths out to plunder their shops.

"Yes I shot at them," one businessman, Ashraf Abbubakker, told AFP. "We have lost everything. We are totally devastated and angry and we will demand compensation from the South Africans who have invaded this country."

Police, too, continually shot at looters, chasing them through the streets and, with stray bullets flying around, making the streets extremely dangerous.

At the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where since Tuesday 82 people have been treated for injuries — most of them with gunshot wounds — doctors and nurses battled with a steady stream of casualties.

Hospital superintendent Piet McPherson told AFP they had last received supplies Monday. His personnel were exhausted but he did not know how to get them home safely or to bring in replacements.

"We don't even know where some of our doctors are," he said. "They seem to be scattered around and we think some may have fled the country."

Inside a ward, a 21-year-old protester lay with burn injuries to his face. He told AFP he and friends were torching a shop when a gas bottle exploded.

Three beds down, another youth with a chest wound said the protesters had shot him. "Look at these people," he said, referring to the protesters. "They have finished our country."

## Politicians discuss deadlock over IRA disarmament

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Britain's governor for Northern Ireland predicted Wednesday that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) would start disarming, the issue that has long bedevilled efforts to make a peace agreement work.

"It's no longer a question of if (weapons) decommissioning is going to take place, it's a question of when," Mo Mowlam said after discussing obstacles to April's peace agreement with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern in Dublin.

Ahern said he wanted to see disarmament "the sooner the better," but neither he nor Mowlam said they had any deadline in mind.

David Trimble, the Protestant politician elected to lead a new multi-party government for Northern Ireland, insisted he won't allow leaders of the IRA-aligned Sinn Fein Party to participate unless command-

ers of the outlawed IRA start disarming first.

"It's not a matter of preconditions. It's a matter of them doing what they agreed to do," Trimble said before launching a public-relations drive to attract tourists from the Irish Republic to Northern Ireland.

Noting that April's agreement had already provided early paroles for more than 20 of an eligible 200 IRA prisoners, Trimble said it would be "quite wrong for them to expect to benefit ... if they're defaulting on their obligations." Trimble leads the Ulster Unionist Party, chief representative of the north's British Protestant majority.

In July a new legislative assembly — part of the new government framework for Northern Ireland — elected him to lead an administration alongside a moderate Catholic politician, Seamus Mallon.

Other members of the as-yet-unformed administration must be approved by majorities of the assembly's Protestant and Catholic blocs. Trimble, opposed by many Protestants, has a vulnerable two-vote majority within the Protestant bloc.

April's agreement said Sinn Fein should press the IRA to destroy its secret arms dumps by mid-2000. But it set no deadline for the process to start, nor did it specify penalties if it failed to happen.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams insisted Monday that IRA disarmament was "a dead-end issue" and beyond his powers to deliver.

Ahern and Mowlam want Trimble to invite Sinn Fein into the new administration next month regardless of what the IRA does.

Meetings between Trimble and Ahern late Tuesday in Dublin, and between Trimble and

Adams earlier that day in Belfast, made no reported progress.

Meanwhile, police in the Irish Republic arrested, then freed without charge, seven men on suspicion of involvement in the Continuity IRA, a dissident offshoot that has refused to join the parent group's July 1997 truce.

Police seized a .22-calibre rifle and a handgun during searches of the suspects' homes in Dublin and County Kildare west of the Irish capital.

They are continuing to interrogate six men arrested Monday on suspicion of involvement in another dissident group dubbed the Real IRA, which killed 29 people in a car bombing last month.

That group called a ceasefire in the wake of that attack, Northern Ireland's deadliest in its 30 years of political violence.

## Finn accused of giving EU secrets to Russia

HELSINKI (R) — Finnish authorities said Wednesday they were investigating an espionage case involving a foreign ministry official suspected of passing confidential European Union (EU) information to Russia.

Seppo Nevala, head of the Security Police, said the unidentified official could be charged with treason.

"The secret service has investigated the case assuming that the official was committing treason," Nevala told Reuters.

The illegal activity was stopped at an early stage.

Nevala said the official had been passing EU-related material and other secrets to two Russian diplomats in Helsinki, one of whom was asked to leave already during the summer.

The other had earlier left voluntarily.

"As they enjoyed diplomatic immunity, court proceedings in Finland were out of the question," he said.

The case now rests with Finland's chief prosecutor Jarmo Rautakoski who said a decision on whether to press charges against the civil servant, who had not been arrested, could be made within a month.

In Moscow, Interfax news agency quoted the foreign ministry as saying it regretted Finland's decision to expel its diplomat.

Politicians in Helsinki admitted the case embarrassed Finland, which has had close ties with Moscow for decades and pursued the role of a

bridge-builder between the EU and Russia.

"We are waiting for further information from the foreign ministry and the secret service. The case is quite serious," Markus Aaltonen, head of parliament's foreign relations committee, told Reuters.

Asked if the case was an embarrassment for Finland, he said: "I would say so." Jukka Valtasaari, state secretary at the foreign ministry, said he did not expect the case to sour relations with Russia and that the EU had been notified early on.

"My assessment is that it will not (affect relations with Russia) and I hope it will not," Valtasaari told Reuters.

One senior foreign diplomat in Helsinki said that Finland, the only EU country bordering

Russia, had to keep a lively dialogue with its huge eastern neighbour.

"It is unpleasant but in the long-run there will be no consequences," the diplomat told Reuters.

Following a defeat in World War II, Finland was forced to accept a friendship pact with the Soviet Union which barred it from closer ties with the West and allowed Moscow to meddle in its internal affairs.

The Soviet embassy in Helsinki was crowded until the early 1990s with intelligence officers whose only task was to keep up regular contacts with leading politicians.

Such liaisons were not seen as improper and ordinary Finns called the agents "Kotirysä" — "domesticated Russians."

## Beijing toughens stand on dissidents on eve of French premier's trip

BEIJING (AFP) — China Wednesday stepped up its campaign of intimidation against dissidents on the eve of a state visit by French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

Beijing writer Jiang Qisheng, who has been arrested several times in the past, was Tuesday detained at his home and taken to a secret location, his wife Zhang Hong told AFP.

And in the southeastern town of Fuzhou, Lin Xinsu, a traditional Chinese medicine specialist, was Wednesday placed under seven days detention for ignoring strict police restrictions imposed on him, sources said.

Lin was put under house arrest at the start of the month after writing an open letter to President Jiang Zemin calling for democracy, just before the landmark visit to China of U.N. Human Rights Commissioner Mary Robinson.

According to dissident sources here, Jiang Qisheng was preparing with activists Lin Mu and Ding Zilin, the mother of a student killed in

the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown, to publish statements on freedom, civil liberties and social justice.

Jospin is due to raise the issue of human rights with the Chinese leadership during his three-day visit to mainland China and Hong Kong, sources in his entourage said.

Chinese authorities have over the last days and weeks stepped up their detentions of dissidents who have been trying to register the first opposition party since the start of Communist rule in 1949.

Dissidents have lodged applications to register the China Democracy Party in seven provinces since June.

Most of those behind the applications have been briefly detained and released several days later except for Tang Yuanjuan, a former engineer from northeast Changchun, who has been formally charged with making contact with illegal organizations.

The leader of the movement Wang Youcai was also charged in August after a month in detention. He was later released and placed

under house arrest.

Sixteen dissidents from the northeastern provinces of Jilin and Liaoning sent an open letter to Jospin to ask him to take up the question of human rights with Chinese authorities and to intercede on behalf of Tang Yuanjuan.

"Mr. Jospin should not forget that he comes from the country which is at the origin of the Declaration on Human Rights. We hope that he will manage to make efforts to improve human rights in other countries," a copy of the letter delivered to AFP said.

Those arrested in recent weeks include Fang Jue, a former cadre, detained after published an essay at the beginning of the year calling for political reform.

Journalist Shi Binhai of the China Economic Times was detained earlier this month for digging too deeply into sensitive issues such as high-level corruption.

Two human rights groups Tuesday appealed to Jospin to intervene with his hosts over another journalist Gao Yu imprisoned for divulging state secrets.

Reporters sans Frontières (Reporters without Borders) and Human Rights Watch told Jospin in a joint statement received here that they knew "how attached you are to respect for human rights."

The two groups "urge you to intervene with the Chinese authorities, and in particular with President Jiang Zemin, to obtain the release of Gao Yu on humanitarian grounds so that she can receive the medical treatment she needs."

Arrested in October 1993, Gao was sentenced to six years in prison when she was working with the Hong Kong Mirror Monthly and Chinese Overseas Daily.

Jospin's visit is the first by a French premier since a trip by Edouard Balladur in April 1994 which was sprinkled with numerous detentions including that of the main pro-democracy leader Wei Jingsheng.

Held in secret for 18 months, Wei was then sentenced to 14 years in prison before being freed in November on medical grounds and sent into exile in the United States.

## Euro court fines Britain in child spanking case

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The European Court of Human Rights condemned Britain Wednesday for failing to provide adequate legal protection for children who are beaten by their parents.

Acting in the controversial case of a boy beaten with a cane by his stepfather, the court concluded that British law failed to protect him from "inhuman and degrading treatment" as required by the European convention of

human rights.

It fined Britain \$50,400 in damages and legal fees. The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was nine at the time of the beating, which was inflicted after he tried to stab his younger brother with a kitchen knife.

The suit was an attempt by the boy's lawyers to contest British laws sanctioning "reasonable chastisement" of children.

A British court had acquitted the stepfather of charges of assault.

The boy's natural father, with whom the boy now lives, backed the child in the case. But his mother defended the beating, saying he had been "totally out of control" and had "run riot" since the age of two.

Caning and other forms of corporal punishment in British schools have been against the law for years. But courts have frequently acquitted parents who have admitted using canes, belts and electric flexes to beat their chil-

dren at home.

Britain has sometimes lagged behind other European nations in cracking down on the use of corporal punishment.

Until 1891, for instance, British men could legally beat their wives with a stick, provided it was no thicker than a man's thumb. Under the law, husbands were also allowed to lock up their wives as a punishment.

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## Not the way

THE CURRENT situation in Malaysia involving ousted Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim provides an interesting study of human rights in developing countries, just as the rise and fall of the Malaysian financial system presented an opportunity for an in-depth study of economics. In both cases, it seems, the lesson to be learned is exactly how not to do it.

Anwar, who has been charged with a list of crimes including corruption and sexual impropriety, was detained earlier this week under Malaysia's infamous Internal Security Act. This law allows the indefinite detention of accused persons without trial, even during times of peace. Before Anwar's arrest, a number of his associates were taken into custody under the same act. It has been described by a Malaysian human rights group as leading to "gross violations of human rights."

Coinciding with the Anwar arrest was the arrival of Queen Elizabeth II of England to close the Commonwealth Games. Anwar, however, would win no awards for predicting the future: he said he would be arrested after she left. Perhaps the Malaysian authorities can add the offence of not being able to prognosticate future events accurately enough to the list of charges.

Besides the violations of internationally recognised human rights standards involved in Anwar's detention, the timing and other circumstances surrounding the arrest also raise questions. The campaign against him built up with incredible speed after his sacking. Several close associates were produced who "admitted" after detention under the security act, to the charges of sodomy pressed against Anwar. To date, no evidence has been produced to substantiate the claims made against him, a fact that seems odd considering Anwar's former position and 17 years of service under Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad. It is also difficult to not see the popular Anwar as a scapegoat of sorts, with the increased scrutiny being afforded East Asia's dictators in the wake of the economic collapse. Nothing is better to divert attention away from pressing problems than a little "sex and lies" scandal, as current events in American "politics" now demonstrate.

Anwar has received international attention due to his status in Malaysia, but he is in the same boat as thousands before him in Malaysia and hundreds of thousands around the world who have been arbitrarily harassed, jailed and tortured under vague legislation that removes the accused and their inquisitors from the public eye. This has all been documented over the years by numerous international human rights bodies, but nevertheless it takes the arrest of a public figure for the countries who supposedly "champion" human rights to bring pressure to bear on countries which engage in such abuses. If these countries wished to end such hypocrisy, they should demand that Mahathir be detained under the same security act as Anwar. He presents more of a security threat to ordinary Malaysians, who are now struggling to survive thanks to his policies, than Anwar.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek urged the government to get rid of all obstacles preventing Jordanian goods from entering the Palestinian market, whether these obstacles stemmed from Israelis or Palestinians. He said he was delighted with the Jordanian-Palestinian higher committee regulations which will help open the Palestinian market for Jordanian goods. But although Palestinians are anxious to do so, the real decision is in the hands of Israel, he said. Agreeing with Palestinians was easy, but this did not allow Jordanian trucks to enter Ramallah without obstacles, so, real negotiations have to be had between Jordan and Israel, Fanek said. But not all obstacles are Israeli, some are Palestinian, he added, and thus, the West Bank market remains captive to the Israelis, who control the market. Fanek claimed that agents in the Palestinian market representing Israeli suppliers, who are basically political motivated, are not interested in competition from Jordan market.

Al Dustour's Araib Rintawi warned against what he called the "veiled nuclear strategy" adopted by consecutive Israeli governments which keep regional tensions high because of the uncertainty surrounding Israel's nuclear programme. Israel have repeatedly refused to open nuclear establishments for international inspection and did not sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, he said. Rintawi praised recent Arab efforts led by Egypt to include Israel's nuclear programme on the agenda of the International Atomic Energy Commission which Monday opened its first session in Austria. He hoped that the Arab effort will eventually force Israel to yield to international pressure, especially at this stage when there are increasing signs of possible nuclear leakage or even an explosion at the Israeli nuclear reactor at Dimona.

## View from Academia

# How much English do we need?

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

THE MINUTE you raise questions such as the above, some/may — as the case generally is in our part of the world when you address the many so-called "givens" — hasten to bombard you with a series of dismissive rhetorical questions or sharp answers.

What do you mean by asking how much English do we need? We need as much English as possible. English is an international language: it is needed for communication. Every new event, happening, discovery, invention, fact, piece of information, hypothesis, theory (in any realm, discipline or sphere) is conveyed in English. We need English therefore to know, keep up-to-date and be competent in our own specialties. English is the language of business, commerce and trade; we need it to do business with the rest of the world. In open-market, interdependent global economies, English is a must. Arab societies — which are rich anthropologically, sociologically, historically, culturally, etc. — are open, and they expect tourism to replace oil in its economic value. You need English to communicate with the millions of tourists who are, or will be, knocking at the door. Besides, the globe is fast becoming a small village; you need English to communicate with your fellow global citizens.

And what do you mean by asking what sort of English do we want? We want all sorts: formal and informal, standard and colloquial, spoken and written. We want the four skills: reading, speaking, listening, and writing. We want American English, British English, and maybe even Australian English.

This in fact happens, to be the official position of our educational institutions. Many schools in our society teach English as early as the age of three or four. The public schools start at the age of nine or ten. In the former case, English is taught for fourteen years; in the latter, for eight or ten. Not to mention, of course, the large number of those who take English at the college or university level. And our educational institutions teach the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

So? Well, even though everything sounds so logical, commonsensical, and the right thing to do, in reality there are real problems in our relation to English and in our approach to it.

Look at the following scenario from real life. This in fact happened a couple of days ago. Some colleagues and I were in an auditorium supervising an English proficiency test for Ph.D. students in the various branches of the sciences and humanities. During the two-hour

exam, I was approached by three students (those bold enough to "expose" themselves) who came to ask about what is required in a certain question. The question was: "Summarise the following passage in no more than 100 words." Even though I have been teaching English at the college level for over fifteen years and have encountered so many outrageous cases of weak English, I was almost stunned. A Ph.D. student (30-40 years old) who has studied English for at least eight or ten years prior to college (and may have taken a couple of courses at the college level) does not know what "summarise" and "passage" mean!

You may say that this is an extreme case. I would say no. When I graded the exam, I found a number of students who translated the passage into Arabic instead of summarising it (which shows that they also have misunderstood the instructions). More importantly, however, we teachers of English (at school and at college) encounter many cases of real weakness in English — some of whom are totally helpless and hopeless.

I would say, on the basis of my observations and readings (and I am talking here not about English majors but about our students in general), that only about 10-15 per cent of our college student population speaks, understands, reads and writes English effectively. 20-25 per cent fall in the category of "barely satisfactory." The rest are either very weak or helpless. Some are more effective in certain skills than in others.

Clearly, there are numerous causes for our students' weakness in the English language. Some have to do with the environment itself: the Arab environment in which English is taught and the variety of local environments which the students come from (a student who studies English in western Amman will most likely be more competent than a fellow student in eastern Amman or in a village east of Mafraq). Some have to do with the competence or incompetence of teachers. Some have to do with the individual motivation and will of the learner. Some have to do with the syllabus. And so forth.

The important point to stress here, however, is this: if the (actual) overall result is not that satisfactory, and if there are so many stark cases of weakness, should we not seriously reconsider many of our assumptions regarding English?

Such as what? Well, for one thing, why waste so much effort and so many valuable resources on teaching English for fourteen, twelve or ten years to students who reach the Ph.D. level (or college level generally) and do not understand

a basic statement such as "Summarise the following passage"? Is not this economically unsound? And what about the psychological and mental torture for such students during so many years of English lessons.

What I am suggesting is that, in the case of teaching English, the saying "the more the merrier" may not necessarily be true. It may be not only economically more sound, but also in actuality more effective to take English for two or three years (or less) than to take it for fourteen, twelve, or ten. I know students from other countries who started studying a foreign language in college. In two semesters, they have achieved more than the majority of our students in ten or twelve years. Shouldn't the experience of other nations be studied?

For another, do we need to teach all of the four skills to all of our students? Should we not take into consideration the specific needs of individuals. At Wadi Mousa or Jerash, for example, you meet individuals of all ages (some of whom have not learnt English at school) who express themselves fluently to tourists. The English they have serves their needs and purposes fine. The writing skills of many of them may be either minimal or non-existent. Do they need writing skills? Maybe not.

Talk also to some chauffeurs working at the foreign diplomatic missions in Amman. What kind of English do they use? How much English do they know? I have witnessed several encounters between them and their foreign bosses. One chauffeur said to his boss, after the latter asked him where he was going: "Me go airport bring Mr. —". Another said to his boss: "Me buy things downtown." The two bosses understood perfectly.

Between the Ph.D. students who cannot understand the very basics of English after ten years of English schooling and the children at Petra and Jerash and the chauffeurs at the foreign diplomatic missions who have had little or no formal schooling but who can still make English work for them, certain traditional assumptions or "givens" need to be reconsidered. Then what about students who study English for ten or fourteen years and never use it afterwards?

We may need to take English for Special (or Specific) Purposes (ESP) more seriously. More importantly and urgently, we need to reconsider, restructure and readjust much of what many among us take for granted. We may want to begin with a serious conference devoted specifically to the economics, special needs, and effectiveness of our English programmes at the school as well as university levels.

## LETTERS

### Just not fair

To the editor:

HOW FAIR is it that a leader's private life is made public? How fair is it to have his family dragged into one of the most embarrassing situations imaginable?

Clinton is only a human being! Humans (except for the perfect 29 per cent of Americans) give in to temptations, have sexual affairs, deny having them, and then for one reason or another, lie about them under oath. Does that make him a criminal or just one of us?

I believe what is driving 29 per cent of Americans to push for the president's impeachment is the fact that to them the president of the U.S. should be perfect. Is this what they aspire to be — perfect — or do they truly believe they are faultless and have the right to judge a man who has fallen?

Two previous American presidents, F.D. Roosevelt and J.F. Kennedy, had sexual affairs while in office. Many knew about these affairs, but no one saw Eleanor or Jackie go through the public humiliation Hillary is going through, nor did they see those presidents walk with their tails between their legs, the way we see Clinton now.

In times like this, Americans should take into consideration the good Clinton has done, and the terrible times he and his family are going through because of Ken Starr's political ambitions. I truly sympathise with the Clintons.

Jomana Wael Karadsheh,  
 Amman.



GIVE 'EM ENOUGH TAPE .....

## The shape of things to come

# The Tunisian economy: A blueprint for the future

Riad al Khouri

KEEPING IN mind political, cultural and other affinities between us and the Maghreb, it's interesting to speculate on whether the North Africans have a lot to teach us as far as earning our way in the world is concerned. The answer seems to be yes, especially if we consider Tunisia. I spent an enjoyable week there earlier this month studying the country's foreign trade and had to conclude that looking at the Tunisian economy is useful in shedding light on ours.

Like Jordan, Tunisia's economic crunch came in the late 1980s, after which structural adjustment started to be implemented. This includes gradual trade liberalisation, fiscal reforms involving the introduction of a value-added tax (VAT), and state divestiture in many areas. In 1995 Tunisia concluded a free trade pact with the European Union — rather like Jordan's accord with the EU — the first country in the Mediterranean region to do so. The EU is Tunisia's main trade and commercial partner, with 73 per cent of its total imports and 78 per cent of exports last year. Compare this with Jordan's total of 26 and 7 per cent. Eight European countries count among Tunisia's twenty major clients, with the absolutely top four positions being held by France (which alone takes 24 per cent of Tunisia's exports and send it 25 per cent of its imports), Italy (19 and 21 per cent), Germany (14 and 15 per

cent) and Belgium (4 and 6 per cent). Obviously, there are lots of differences between Tunisia's economy and Jordan's. However, by looking at Tunisia now, we might just be getting a glimpse of how Jordanians will be behaving in a decade or so: exporting a lot and especially to Europe. Tunisia's exports during 1997 expanded in double digits to about \$5.4 billion (which in per capita terms beats Jordan hollow), helping to give Tunisians respectable rates of growth per capita — in any case higher than our negative figures for 1996-8. Though Tunisia does sell abroad some products based on its own raw materials (including olive oil, phosphates, petroleum, and dates), the really interesting part of its economy is the manufactured export sector. Tunisia's number one export is clothing, to the tune of \$1.9 billion in 1997; this, along with hosiery (\$360 million) and fabrics (\$90 million), was mainly produced by so-called off-shore companies. These, mostly EU firms, number around 700, exporting their production, and importing raw materials duty-free. The latter included much of the \$1 billion worth of fabrics, about \$500 million of textile articles, and \$140 million of thread and spun thread which Tunisia bought from foreigners last year.

So important is this type activity that Tunisians refer to the "trade balance" of individual sectors, comparing exports and

imports for a relatively narrow range of goods, such as textile and leather. Adding exports of shoe uppers and shoes of \$230 million last year to the figures above and throwing in a few more items gives a value of textile and leather goods exports for 1997 of close to \$2.7 billion, an advance compared with 1996, which in turn marked a rise on 1995. The trade surplus of the textiles and leather goods sector last year was at a record level of close to \$700 million (the surplus generated by the textile and clothing branch being at about \$600 million), with a "coverage rate" (imports divided by exports) of 135 per cent. The mere use of this terminology of sectoral balance and coverage for foreign trade is an interesting indication of how Tunisians think and work. This process is now set to be reinforced by the country's pact with the EU.

Tunisia already enjoys good access to the European market, but other benefits to the Tunisians from an accord with the EU are significant, including the harmonisation of product standards with Europe. In fact, the agreement with the EU is helping to set Tunisia's development agenda. Tariff protection is to be removed gradually, with imports that are most likely to disrupt domestic production being phased in over several years; but lowering tariffs will reduce state revenues, and the government must undertake fiscal reforms including

improved collection and wider application of the VAT to compensate. The pact also covers non-tariff barriers and trade rules.

In short, this agreement marks a critical step in Tunisia's liberalisation and offers the country an opportunity to accelerate reforms which should contribute to improved competitiveness and dynamism. The long-term gain will be substantial as resources are reallocated to more productive activities, but the benefits of providing increased momentum to strengthen implementation of Tunisia's reform are equally important. The EU's technical assistance should also speed up the transfer of technology and enhance investment opportunities that will help Tunisian enterprises compete more effectively globally. All this plus access to the EU market will enable Tunisia to increase its exports and attract more foreign investment. Of course, the benefits of this will be to both sides, and the opportunity for EU manufacturers to work with a lower cost producer and improve competitiveness will be a major step in integrating the production and investment patterns of Tunisia and Europe. Jordanians please take note: the details may be different, but the example of Tunisia and its rapport with Europe will be an interesting one for us to study.

Riad al Khouri is President of the Jordan Economic Development Association.



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# One Nation Party finds territory tough

By Wendy Pugh  
Reuters

THE VAST, dry cattle farms of Australian's Northern Territory may look like fertile ground for Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party.

Hanson's antagonism to gun controls and Aboriginal welfare spending should be sure fire vote winners in the outback region neighbouring Queensland, where her party swept 23 per cent of the vote in a June state election.

But political analysts and established politicians suspect that One Nation will find the going tougher in the territory in Australia's October 3 general election.

The Northern Territory is about the size of South Africa with a population of around 188,000 people, scattered from hot and humid Darwin in the north to hotter and bone-dry Alice Springs in the south.

Aboriginal issues matter in a region where about 27 per cent of the population are indigenous, compared to two per cent nationally, and where Canberra imposed the nation's first Aboriginal land rights legislation in 1976.

But the territory's conservative Country Liberal Party has already wrapped up the right-wing ground on Aboriginal matters.

"Aboriginal issues are a vital part of our politics up here and for a long time have been the most divisive area of politics," said Alistair Heatley, reader in politics at Northern Territory University.

"The CLP has long taken a resolute position on Aboriginal affairs and I am not sure One Nation can find much space on the issue."

One Hanson policy that might appeal in the outback is her opposition to tough gun laws, imposed by Prime Minister John Howard's Liberal-National coalition after a gunman massacred 35 people at a Tasmanian tourist site in 1996.

Many territorians were at the forefront of resistance to the orders to surrender their guns.

But One Nation's anti-immigration policies may not prove so popular. Both the territory's major parties strongly support links with Asia, vital to cosmopolitan Darwin, which is closer to Jakarta than it is to Canberra.

In many ways the territory is different from

the rest of Australia, and is not the same environment that nurtured Hanson's profile in Queensland, where just a couple of years ago she was running a fish and chip shop.

The territory's population is younger than the national average, it has an unemployment rate of 4.9 per cent compared to 8.3 per cent nationally, and there is a high level of government employment.

"The only people who I can see going to One Nation up here are the extreme right rump of the CLP and a very, very small number of disaffected, what I would call blue collar Labour," Australian Labour Party candidate Warren Snowdon said.

On a practical level, One Nation faces a tougher challenge to win a territory seat in the upper house Senate than it faces in any of the six Australian states.

The territory has two Senate seats, compared with six each for the states, and successful candidates must each capture around 33.3 per cent of the vote, compared to 12 to 14 per cent in the states. There is just one territory seat in the Lower House of Representatives.

The sheer remoteness of parts of the territo-

ry also presents a challenge for a relatively new party.

Voting in isolated regions begins about a week before the official polling day, with the Australian Electoral Commission taking its mobile polling booths to more than 200 locations across the territory, politicians in tow.

"The resources to cover that are quite extraordinary and I just don't think One Nation has that capacity," said Nick Dondas, who held the territory's House of Representatives seat for the Country Liberals.

All this means a strong showing by One Nation would be a huge shock to many in the territory.

The Northern Territory's lower house seat, the most marginal in Australia, has been described as a litmus test for the nation, and a hefty One Nation vote could prove the party's grasp on Australia had tightened beyond expectations.

Heatley said he did not think the party had any chance of success in any of the territory's federal parliament seats. "I would not imagine it would get more than two to three per cent of the vote in the territory," he said.

But he added, "The pundits were certainly proved wrong in Queensland."

Dondas, who holds the territory seat with a 0.4 per cent majority, said One Nation's level of influence was uncertain and could depend on its position on the ballot paper.

"We have had the minor parties, independents poll seven to 10 per cent in territory elections before," he said.

Even so, the territory does not offer Hanson the same sort of rural vote that exists in other parts of Australia.

Many of the territory's huge pastoral holdings are owned by corporate giants. The Sultan of Brunei owns a property there rumoured to be larger than his homeland.

This does not deter truck driver and machinery contractor Ted Hugger, a Senate candidate for One Nation in the territory.

"The silvertails (social elite) and the country club people are going to have to accept the fact that they are going to be rubbing shoulders with ordinary people," he said.

"We have a fish and chip shop lady and a carpenter and a truckie and people who are really going to rock Canberra."

## Crown Prince: Upgrading higher education a priority

(Continued from page 1)

He added that for sustainable and comprehensive development to come about, an important aim would be to empower man and provide him with the necessary scientific skills that will ensure a wider contribution to social, economic and cultural development.

Saeed Salman, head of the association and president of Ajman University in the UAE appreciated the role Jordan played in involving the private sector, and said "Jordan is considered a pioneer in adopting private higher education and the association will try to benefit from the Jordanian experience."

However, Salman stressed that the state should remain in control of higher education to protect the private educational process and the society as a whole from "beneficiaries and opportunists," he said.

The role of higher education in the development process and in outlining the future should be further highlighted, participants agreed.

Issam Nakeeb, a consultant at Oxford Institute for Energy Studies said that higher education in the Arab World is facing a

crises of disparity between quality and quantity.

"Revenues of the national investment in higher education are directly attached to the quality of education, i.e. its ability to respond positively to the needs of the community through turning out graduates and trainees armed with intellect, knowledge, and technical creativity," Nakeeb said.

He said that only 0.15 per cent of the GDP is being spent on scientific research, and 80 per cent of that goes to only 20 per cent of the universities.

"Empowering man to create changes in our societies is therefore more important than building bridges and factories," Nakeeb said.

President of Amman Private University Amin Mahmoud said the University of California with all its branches spends six times more on scientific research than all universities in the Arab World.

"With 3.6 million students at Arab universities, our concentration remains on quantitative performance and the quality remains shattered," he said.

Engaging in globalisation further poses challenges to higher education, said Abed Al Barri Durrani, president of Al Isra' University.

"Globalisation, with its

calls to remove borders and barriers among people and states and the creation of one cultural civilisation, places responsibility on us to reassess higher education and diagnose it before bringing about solutions," he said.

The other challenge he said is the existence of international vocational councils and international unions for higher education concerned with setting certain mechanisms to supervise and control the quality of higher education and improve its outcomes worldwide.

The seminar called for improving and developing higher educational programmes, saying that this requires a strong will and desire from both the state and people.

It also recommended creating a statistical survey for the communities' needs and for establishing certain institutions responsible for following up the process in an institutionalised manner.

"We should set policies and all necessary measures that would be in line with new developments," Nakeeb said.

## Science and technology The windows get dirty

By Jared Sandberg

PRESIDENTS AND lawyers, a widening investigation, damning depositions, hardening grudges. No, not that battle. We're talking about Microsoft's long-running antitrust fight with the government. It gets messier all the time. Two weeks ago, the Justice Department pulled high-profile companies like Apple and Intel into the brawl, arguing that new evidence from those companies supports its claims of predatory Microsoft practices. Microsoft spokesman Mark Murray sees Justice's move as a sign of desperation, saying it broadened the charges "to cloud the issues and breathe some new life into their case," which "has really gone belly up." The trial was scheduled to begin later this month, but the date is more likely to be pushed back to mid-October.

Until recently, the debate focused on technical issues, but the tone has turned from geeky to cheeky. The government says that at his deposition, Microsoft chairman Bill Gates "displayed a particular failure of recollection." The software giant fired back that the Feds are "slinging as much mud as they can" by drawing new companies into the case. Included in the alleged dirty tricks is Microsoft's attempt to disrupt the performance of a competing operating system once offered by Novell. Whatever the outcome, the trial is sure to expose embarrassing and ethically tenuous practices. A loss would be crippling for either side.

The Justice Department has made the Microsoft case the linchpin of the Clinton administration's antitrust strategy. Gates and company fear that a court defeat could have a chilling effect on the company. Meanwhile, competitors say the software giant has already chilled their efforts to enter new markets.

Last week, Larry Ellison, Oracle's double-breasted chairman and a perennial Gates-basher, entered the fray by accusing Microsoft of bullying Digital Equipment Corp. into ceasing its

efforts with the Oracle on a project potentially damaging to Microsoft.

The same day, word surfaced that Microsoft strayed its archcompetitors, including Oracle, Netscape and Novell, with a round of subpoenas, seeking documents to prove that Microsoft's conduct is no different from the rest of the industry's.

Microsoft's Murray said the documents would prove that "Microsoft's competitors are doing everything the government accuses Microsoft of doing."

And then some. Companies that received the subpoenas said they are either reviewing them or trying to comply. Christine Varney, a former commissioner at the Federal Trade Commission who now represents Netscape, said, "Microsoft's effort is an orchestrated attempt to obfuscate, delay the trial and continue to harass their competitors. It's somewhere between silly and nasty."

Microsoft has been asking the court for more time, and Justice, which also wants more time,



Bill Gates (left) appears to be out of memory as the accusations fly.

**Microsoft:** 'The Justice Department is clouding the issue. Their case has really gone belly up.'

**Netscape:** 'Microsoft is attempting to obfuscate, delay the trial and continue to harass their competitors.'

agreed at a closed-door hearing last Friday, according to people familiar with the talks. A delay could play to Microsoft's advantage because "the longer it takes the government to get a remedy, the harder it is to get a remedy that makes a difference," says William Kovacic, visiting professor at the George Washington University law school. He added that head-strong personalities and high stakes have produced an "explosive mixture." Judging by the recent fireworks, more bombs will be dropped in Washington.

— Newsweek

## France exasperated at Iraq; Annan mulls new review

UNITED NATIONS (R) — French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine contends Iraq has put Secretary-General Kofi Annan in an embarrassing position as he attempts to resolve the latest standoff over Baghdad's curtailment of weapons inspections.

Iraq's behaviour made it impossible even for sympathetic countries such as France to argue in the U.N. Security Council that Baghdad had complied with its obligation to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction, he said late on Tuesday.

Vedrine spoke to reporters shortly after Annan called in Security Council ambassadors for the second time in a week to give them a paper containing proposals for a comprehensive review of Baghdad's relations with the United Nations.

The review is now the main focus in the dispute in hopes this might provide a way out of the impasse. The Security Council approved the idea if Iraq stops blocking inspections.

Vedrine said Annan, who negotiated a deal to end the last crisis with Iraq in February, proposed identifying areas of arms control in which progress has been made and tracing a road map of what remains to be done.

France and Russia have argued for "closing" the nuclear and ballistic missile files — transferring them from regular inspections to a monitoring programme — to give Iraq an incentive to cooperate in the outstanding inspections

of its chemical and biological weapons programmes.

But Vedrine said: "This can only work seriously if there is a signal of willingness to cooperate on the Iraqi side."

"There has never been a situation where even we could have said that they have met all the conditions," Baghdad, he said had "put the U.N. secretary-general in an embarrassing position." Iraq on Aug. 5 suspended inspections by U.N. arms experts, prompting the Security Council in a Sept. 9 resolution to stop its periodic reviews of stringent trade sanctions until Baghdad reversed its stand.

In response Iraq has threatened to break off all cooperation, including closing down U.N. monitoring systems, until the council rescinds its resolutions that also offered the comprehensive review.

But Iraqi officials are evidently waiting to see what the review would contain before making further action in their quest to see the sanctions lifted.

Annan has asked Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz to come to the United Nations for discussions. He is expected to arrive Saturday and see the secretary-general on Monday.

The United States so far has shown no signs of yielding on any proposal that would encourage Iraq to believe sanctions, imposed when its troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990, would be eased or lifted.

Last week Peter Bursleigh, the U.S. representative, said

that if such a review took place Washington wanted it expanded to other demands, such as accounting for missing Kuwaitis.

The United States, which went to the brink of military action in February, has urged the United Nations to make Saddam live up to his agreement with Annan but has not ruled out the use of force if he continues to defy the inspectors.

In related developments, U.N. arms officials have called in weapons experts to analyse discrepancies in test results on the deadly nerve gas VX from laboratories in the United States compared to those in France and Switzerland.

They will meet on Thursday and Friday and include representatives of all three laboratories, diplomats said.

The envoys reported last week that the Swiss laboratory had completed its work and the one in France had tested nearly all the swabs it had been given from fragments of Iraqi missile warheads. Neither found VX.

In contrast, American experts at a military testing laboratory in Aberdeen, Md. in June found traces of VX in Scud-type missile warhead fragments recovered from a destruction site in Iraq earlier this year.

UNSCOM seeks to ascertain whether Iraq loaded the VX into warheads before the 1991 Gulf war and whether any remain.

Baghdad denies this, saying it was unable to stabilise the volatile nerve agent.

## Newest Apple flying out of the stores

By Laetitia Mailhes  
Agence France Presse

IT MAY be nostalgia, or something else. But the fact is that the iMac, the Internet Macintosh, is turning out to be a success for struggling computer maker Apple Inc.

"They sell like hot cakes," said Champory Rith, a salesman at CompUSA in California. "We sold out on the first day. Since then, some customers have been waiting, sometimes up to a week."

The egg-shaped, Internet-linking iMac went on sale in the United States on August 15, and the tens of thousands of units shipped each week have turned out to fall short of demand.

They went on sale in Japan two weeks ago and are already almost impossible to find, said Apple interim chief executive Steve Jobs. Some customers will be waiting until the end of September to even see an iMac in a shop window.

"We expect a similar reaction in Europe" when they go on sale there in one week, said Rhona Hamilton, a spokeswoman for Apple.

The iMac is nothing more than a single unit screen and monitor with a keyboard and a mouse, much like the first Macintosh that went on sale and made Apple a success in the 1980s.

The futuristic-looking unit sells for \$1,299.

"In the past, Apple has had problems with a shortage of supply and we try not to let that happen but the sales have been so overwhelming that there hasn't been any way to avoid that," said Hamilton.

"There is a problem of shortage, but we're excited that the demand

has been so high and we've sold out."

The last new computer brought out by Apple was the PowerBook G3, and deliveries are now running three to four weeks behind sales, said Jobs.

Apple says it is making the iMac in California, Ireland and Singapore, and maintains that its decision to recruit a new director of operations will make production more efficient.

And Internet sales of the iMac will be delayed until October to make sure that stocks in existing markets are sufficient.

"It is impossible to say if and when they're going to catch up because we don't know how many units they're shipping. But it would probably be a mistake to position it as a problem," said Scott Miller, a PC industry analyst at Dataquest.

While no sales figures are immediately available, Lou Mazzuchelli, an analyst with Gerard Klauer Mattison and Co. told the Wall Street Journal that 450,000 units would be sold in the next three months.

If he is correct, the iMac would be Apple's best seller

ever and could spell success for the computer maker after a decade of ever-smaller market shares and a financial disaster.

It has been three quarters since Apple was in the black, but this could soon change since iMac sales have spurred interest in other Apple products. CompUSA's Rith

said that he has also run out of the PowerBook G3.

"There's been an increased buzz around the Macintosh system," he said. "The iMac has created a lot of interest with people who are not familiar with the Macintosh. A lot of people are converting from the PC side to the Macintosh side."

## Of PCs and TVs

By Jean-Claude Elias

SINCE 1995 software designers, computer manufacturers and television makers have been heavily promoting the idea of a marriage between PCs and TV sets. Combining both worlds in one system is their ultimate goal.

Indeed many an element is common to computers and televisions, particularly if one adds the Internet. The multimedia characteristic of TV goes without saying: large screen for pleasant display and sound that is usually better than the average sound system found on common PCs. The interactive aspect of cable TV (in the USA and some European countries at least) and the advent of the DVD (Digital Versatile Disc) will also probably contribute to bring both concepts closer.

However, one can't but wonder if such a marriage makes sense or if it will lead to an early divorce. Also, exactly how close are designers and manufacturers planning to bring PCs and TVs together?

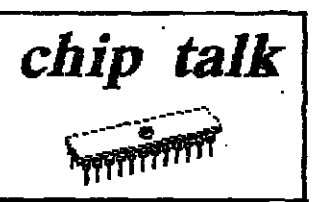
Many analysts believe that it won't last. In a recent issue of the French "Le Figaro" daily, one journalist noted that working with a computer is a task that makes him think and work — albeit with pleasure —

while watching TV is the time to relax and let go. The usual question of active versus passive is again raised here. For most of us computing is an active exercise while TV is a passive form of entertainment or information.

On the feasibility side, there seems to be a consensus on the fact that a truly versatile "PC+TV" system would be expensive. Difficult to upgrade and overall unfriendly. In some homes there is already a daily battle to obtain the use of the family computer, when the adults return from work and children from school. Centralising both the PC and the television will create more conflicts, except for those fortunate enough to be able to afford more than one system.

The last reason why the association may never really occur is more pragmatic than all the reasons above. Computers are being improved at the average frequency of two to three times a year whereas TV technology moves at a much slower pace. Combining them will necessarily handicap the first.

What will probably happen is the usual "trial and error" game from the industry. They will just wait and see how consumers will respond before going into further integration.







## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

### Savings of expatriates, direct foreign investments seen the engine for future development

**\*\* THE ENGINE** for future development is the savings of Jordanian expatriates on the one hand and the direct foreign investment on the other hand, the minister of state for development affairs said in a working paper he presented at the first Jordanian Businesspersons' Conference. The minister, Taher Kanaan, indicated that the Jordanian investment capabilities are limited by the small size of the economy and the market.

"This limitation cannot be overcome except by transforming the Jordanian market into a launching pad for a bigger market through opening up and integrating with the regional and international markets," Kanaan emphasized. He also stressed that carrying out the reforms and the institutional developments should be entrusted to qualified personnel who understand the objectives of the legislator. Kanaan explained that savings of Jordanian expatriates were one of two basic resources financing capital investments and building up a base for production and growth.

The other main resource was official aid and development loans. "But now, and after the depletion of official aid and the drop in development loans to narrow ranges, the main engine for development are the savings of expatriates and direct foreign investment," he said.

Consequently, the main focus in the development policy at this sensitive stage is the development of the institutional structure in the private and public sectors. This process would achieve a mobilisation of national savings and channelling them

through productive investment tools as well as attracting direct investments from abroad (Al Ra'i).

Madadha reveals statistics about activity at various free zones in the country. **\*\* ACCORDING TO** Ali Madadha, director general of the Free Zones Corporation, 1,017 contracts were concluded with the corporation last year. The contracts were spread among 1,400 investors in various free zones and different investment sectors, he said.

At the Zarga free zone, 56 contracts were signed in the industrial sector compared to 64 deals in 1996. In the commercial sector, the number of contracts was 488 compared to 463 deals in 1996. The highest increase was in the vehicles section which shot up from 180 contracts in 1996 to 290 contracts in 1997. There was no change in the services sector as 65 contracts were signed in both 1996 and 1997.

At the Aqaba free zone the total number of contracts last year was 77 (84 deals in 1996). At Sahab, 51 contracts were signed, the director general said without giving a number for 1996.

As to the movement of stocks, Madadha said that 227,600 tonnes of goods entered the Zarga Free Zone in 1997 whereas 296,900 tonnes were taken out. At the free zone in Aqaba, a total of 397,100 tonnes of goods were brought in and 328,400 tonnes were taken out.

A total of 30,688 customs transactions were processed in Zarga last year whereas the total number of transactions at Aqaba and Sahab were 7,045 and 127 transactions respectively (Al Ra'i).

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You'll go through all sorts of challenging situations today, but don't worry for a moment. The overall outcome is positive, despite some momentary setbacks. You will emerge triumphant in your overall objective. No point in getting frazzled or making rude comments. Be magnanimous. You know you're going to win.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You could make a good deal today. It looks like a compromise is needed and a partner has the financing you need, or could help you get it. If you work together, there will be more doors open to you. The bottom line could be an increase in status, and possibly an increase in responsibility.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You could get into an interesting discussion today. The other person is sharp, but there are a few things he or she simply doesn't understand. Do your best to explain, but simultaneously learn. You are teaching each other. Keep that in mind when you start thinking you know it all. That's a clue you're missing something important.

**CANCER:** (June 22 to July 21) You're ready to get serious about your work. Your mind's back in the job, and just in time. There's something that has to get out today, and it requires your full attention. Get a friend or roommate to help you with chores, so you can get this matter handled before it's too late.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Today starts out slow, but picks up speed. First, take care of business. There's an opportunity, but you'll need to be careful

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

how you approach it. You may have to make a trade, but don't let go of something you're going to need later. Speaking of later, this evening should be good for playing with a loved one.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Something's disrupted at your place. Maybe you're building a new addition to the house. Maybe it's something a little less extreme. At any rate, it's more of a mess than you'd like it to be when your friends come visit. Talk them into a meeting at their place instead.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Your focus is shifting in the direction of financial security. You're generally pretty carefree. You don't think much about the future, because you don't have to. Somebody's always there to take care of you. But right now, you may be interested in putting a bit of a safety net place for yourself. Definitely follow through on that urge.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You want to buy something expensive, and you're afraid you're going to go into debt just because you want this thing so much. There's a way to get around it, of course, and that is to ask your partner's advice. You knew it was going to be tough, but you didn't know it was going to be this tough, did you?

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) The sun is in Libra and the moon is in Sagittarius, which is marvelous. There's kind of a rocky start this morning, but that's OK. Don't let the few little problems spoil your optimistic frame of mind. Set lofty goals for this weekend. You may not get everything accomplished, but you sure will have a great time trying.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Make decisions involving other people first thing this morning. Later you'll want to clean out closets, and possibly do a little introspection. You may find some things you've lost. These could be memories, or something tangible, like that earning or tie tack you haven't seen in months. Go on a treasure hunt this evening.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Somebody wants you to behave in a certain way, and is watching you closely to see if you're doing it. You don't feel like doing what he or she wants, so it's a conflict waiting to happen. Stifle your natural tendencies during the day. You can let them all out this evening, in the company of your dear friends.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) There are things to do before the weekend. There may be a quiz coming up tomorrow on whether or not you've done them. For example, if you're having company over, you've got to clean the house, buy food, stuff like that. Make a list and check things off. Otherwise, you could find yourself in a rather embarrassing situation.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

### Bank of Israel to start Euro-shekel rate from Jan.

TEL AVIV (R) — The Bank of Israel has said that it would begin publishing a representative rate for the euro against the Israeli shekel on Jan. 4, replacing the daily rate it fixes against the ECU.

The central bank said it would continue to publish representative rates for the Euro bloc currencies.

"These will be calculated using the euro representative rate fixed by the Bank of Israel every day and the 'conversion factor' between the euro and the national currencies that will be published by the European Central Bank at the end of 1998," the Bank of Israel said in a statement. The bank said it was recommending that those with contractual agreements set in the euro bloc currencies, such as linked loans or deposits, determine in advance how they will calculate their representative rates against the shekel.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) The sun is in Libra, the sign of the pacifist; and Mercury, symbolising the mind, is going there today as well. The moon's in Scorpio, a military sign, as is Aries, the warrior. Have you figured this out yet? It means that you and an enemy could actually reach a workable compromise. Make that your objective.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Normally you'd rather be left alone to do what you know needs to be done. During the next few weeks, however, you'll get to help others decide what needs to be done, and motivate them to do it. Decisions are easy for you, but not for many others, as you'll undoubtedly notice today.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) The sun is in Libra; and Mercury, the planet of the mind — and your ruling planet — is going there today, too. In Libra, its effect is startlingly poetic. You're naturally a writer. Gemini is the sign of communication, so words are your most obvious method of expressing your natural talent. Don't hold back.

**CANCER:** (June 22 to July 21) If you've had a different of opinion with a roommate or loved one, don't worry. It'll clear up within the next few weeks, most likely. That's because it'll be easier for you to talk about what's on your mind, especially in the privacy of your own home. That'll be a relief, even though it sounds kind of scary right now.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You're learning fast, so gather the information you need. Ask around. Write letters. Get on the Internet. Check resources. Find out what'll happen if you push this domino over here. What'll be the effect way down the road over time? Figure out the consequences of each possible action. If all that fails, follow a hunch.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) The sun is in Libra while Mercury, your ruling planet, is going there today. It's sad to have Mercury going out of your sign, since it gives you an intellectual advantage. On the other hand, Mercury in Libra brings out your artistic talent, and that could bring in more money.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You're able to think more clearly, and you're coming up with more options. That means you have to make more decisions. That's difficult for you. You want to put out the options and let somebody else make the decisions. Well, just make your choices quickly and get on with it. If you really can't decide, take both.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) If there's a conflict between two parties, you'll be able to act as a mediator. You generally come from one point of view because you've figured out that it's right. Today you'll understand the other point of view. You can incorporate more of what the other people want, and that's a powerful place from which to negotiate.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Mercury is moving into Libra today. Libra is the sign of the negotiator, and you're good at that. Today you'll find it even easier to help others reach a compromise. That's important, since it looks like there are some very divergent opinions out there. But everything works out well, thanks to your good suggestions.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) For the next several weeks, authority types will talk more to usual. Now, when they get to talking, they also tend to wander. One of your jobs is to bring things back to the subject at hand. You're good at that, and today that talent will be required more often than usual.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) If you've got any artistic tendencies at all, they're bound to come out in the next several weeks. You'll be more interested in reading, too. It's a great time to get into the classics, for example. It's also a great time to take a painting class, or anything else that will help you develop your talents.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Conditions are encouraging you to be more creative. They may also tempt you to believe it's not necessary for you actually to produce anything. Sometimes talking about a project can be confused with accomplishing it. This leads to a great conversation, but not much to show for it. Today, results are required.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

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## 7th Arab Cup finals Jordan plays Libya today

By a Staff Reporter

THE JORDANIAN SOCCER team meets Libya in their first match at the 7th Arab Cup finals currently underway in Doha, Qatar, with 12 teams taking part.

Both teams will be looking for a win to qualify to the second round. Libya lost their first match 2-1 to hosts Qatar in the tournament opening match.

On Wednesday Morocco beat the United Arab Emirates 1-0 while Egypt beat Syria 2-1 in an earlier match.

Teams playing in the Sept. 22-Oct. 1 finals have been divided into four groups. Jordan is playing alongside Libya and Qatar in Group 1. Egypt, Kuwait and Syria are playing in Group 2; Morocco, the UAE and Sudan in Group 3, while Group 4 includes Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Lebanon.

The top team in each group will qualify to the second round where the winners advance to the finals and the losers play for third and fourth places.

The Arab Soccer Federation set cash awards to the top four teams: \$40,000 for the champion, \$30,000 for the runner up, and \$20,000 for the third and fourth-placed teams.

The Jordanian team headed to Doha after a training camp in Egypt where they won one match, drew in two and lost another two. They previously had two training camps in Aqaba and Yugoslavia.

Jordan has taken part in all past six Arab Cups since the championship first kicked off in 1963. The Kingdom achieved the best

result in the 5th Cup hosted in Amman where Jordan took fourth place.

The Kingdom's team has played a total of 21 Arab Cup matches winning only three, drawing in three and losing 15 matches.

Throughout the past six Arab Cups, Jordan scored only 13 goals while allowing 51 in.

Iraq are the four time titleholders. Tunisia and Egypt have won it once each, while Syria are three time runners-up.

Jordan had qualified to the Arab Cup finals after beating Lebanon 2-0, drawing 1-1 with Palestine, and losing to Syria 3-0 in the preliminaries held in Beirut, Lebanon.

Premier League matches have meanwhile been put on hold pending the return of the national team, while the Jordan Football Association Shield — is currently underway with team lineups missing their national team players.

The national team includes: Ahmad Abu Nasouh, Mohammad Abu Daoud, Freidon Shamsudin, Abdallah Abu Zame'h, Amjad Taher, Faisal Ibrahim, Hatem Aqel, Haitham Shbouh, Haitham Samrin, Mohammad Mahadin, Osama Tala, Subbi Suleiman, Sufyan Abdullah, Ali Juma'a, Laith Dardour, Farid Shanaiehn, Hassouneh Sheikh, Ihab Ma'ali, Abdullah Shiyah, Ra'fat Ali, Badran Shaqran, and Mazen Anbar.

Three key players are missing from the lineup: Jiryes Tados (injury), Jamal Abu Abed (retired), and Yousef Ammouri who was not named to the team.

## IOC drugs czar rejects Flo-Jo drugs link

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) top anti-drugs official, Prince Alexandre de Merode, refused Wednesday to link the death of Florence Griffith Joyner with performance-enhancing drugs.

Merode, head of the IOC medical commission, was quoted in the newspaper Le Soir as saying: "I do not want to cast the least suspicion nor the least accusation concerning her."

He stressed the commission had "never found the slightest proof" that the American sprinter, who died on Monday at the age of 38 following a "heart seizure," had used drugs.

Griffith Joyner, who won three gold medals at the 1988 Olympics at Seoul and still holds the world record for both the 100 and 200 metres, vehemently denied claims she had taken drugs. She never failed a drug test.

Merode added: "Let the dead rest in peace. If there are claims, I do not think they should be further discussed. It's a subject that should be closed once and for all."

He said he still "wanted to be able to marvel at one of the great sporting performances."

Griffith Joyner's critics claim that not only did her muscular physique develop extraordinarily rapidly but that she also ran phenomenal times only in 1988, never coming close to those times before or after.

Her 100m world record stands at 10.49 and her 200m record at 21.34. The current 100m champion, Marion Jones, has a personal best of 10.71 over the shorter distance.

In 1989, Darrell Robinson, an American 400m runner, alleged in an interview with a German magazine that Griffith Joyner had paid him to supply her with human growth hormone and steroids.

German Werner Franke, an expert on drugs in sport, has told German public television station ZDF that he is certain Flo Jo died through drug abuse.

## Seles puts end to Sawamatsu's tennis career

TOKYO (AFP) — Monica Seles put an end to Naoko Sawamatsu's professional career as she knocked the Japanese out of her final WTA event at the Princess Cup tennis tournament on Wednesday.

The American defending champion, keeping calm against a noisy home crowd at the Ariake Coliseum, won 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the second round of the \$450,000 tournament.

"It was really difficult going into the match, because I've known Naoko for quite some time and I respect her so much as a person, as a player," said Seles, seeded second here.

Sawamatsu, who had never beaten Seles in nine previous matches, fought back in the second set but Seles, despite struggling with her serve, went a service break up twice in the final set before serving out for the match.

Sawamatsu, whose aunt Kazuko won the Wimbledon doubles title with Anne Kiyomura in 1975, turned professional in 1991 after winning all the big amateur titles available in Japan.

She captured four WTA titles at the Singapore Open in 1990, Strasbourg in 1993, Singapore in 1994 and the Indonesian Open last season, and moved up to as high as 14th in the world rankings in November 1995.

In the first round Russian teenage sensation Anna Kournikova, fifth seed, powered past Czech Adriana Gersl 6-2, 6-1, while seventh seed Anke Huber of Germany defeated Japan's Naoko Kijimuta 6-3, 3-6, 6-0.



Monica Seles

## Spectre of drug abuse emerges publicly after Griffith-Joyner death

PARIS (AFP) — The spectre of drug abuse over the death of Olympic sprint champion Florence Griffith-Joyner emerged on Tuesday although a cautious International Olympic Committee (IOC) described her as a very great champion.

Experts on drug use in sport and a training partner believed Flo Jo took drugs and spoke out on the dangers of banned substances in the wake of her death. However, IOC Director General Francois Carrard pointed out she never failed a drugs test.

Griffith-Joyner was as famous for her lavish outfits, long fingernails and make-up as she was for her three Olympic titles at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Police said an autopsy will be conducted but she is believed to have died of a heart seizure similar to one she suffered in April of 1996 on a plane bound for St. Louis.

The London Evening Standard carried an interview with Lorna Boothe, the British athletics team manager, in which she spoke of her amazement at the transformation of Griffith-Joyner from "the slightly overweight, sluggish sprinter" to the complete athlete.

But Boothe later issued a statement via an agent for the British Athletic Federation insisting that contrary to some media reports "I have no evidence to suggest that she (Griffith-Joyner) used performance enhancing drugs or illegal substances."

Two top former German sprinters Marita Koch and Katrin Krabbe said they refused to believe that a link existed between Griffith-Joyner's death and the taking of illegal drugs.

They were responding to remarks made by Werner Franke, a German expert on drugs in sport, who told public television station ZDF that he was certain Flo Jo had died through drug abuse.

Franke believes information brought before the American Senate and comments from Griffith-Joyner's former training partner clearly prove that she had used drugs.

Franke said: "The first seizure of Griffith-Joyner in 1996 was already symptomatic of the abuse of anabolic drugs."

A French expert on drugs in sport Jean-Pierre de Mondenard told France Inter radio station: "For the specialists, there is no doubt. Her incredible physical transformation was not natural."

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## Spain sends armada to Hopman Cup

PERTH (AFP) — The Spanish armada for the Hopman Cup mixed teams tennis tournament here in January will have big guns Carlos Moya and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in its arsenal, organisers said Wednesday.

Moya, ranked fifth in the world, and Sanchez-Vicario ranked fourth, be attempting to regain the cup they last won in the summer of 1990.

Sanchez-Vicario teamed then to beat Americans John McEnroe and Pam Shriver in the final.

The Hopman Cup, a warm up event to the first Grand Slam of the year, the Australian Open, was won this year by Karol Kucera and Karina Habsudova of the Slovak Republic. Kucera (sixth) and Habsudova (75th) will be under heavy pressure to retain the title.

## Initial autopsy results inconclusive

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The autopsy on the body of world-record holding sprinter Florence Griffith Joyner continued Tuesday with no estimate as to when medical examiners would make determination of the cause of death, an official said.

"It could take a few days or a few weeks," Hector Rivera of the Orange County Sheriff's Department said. He added that the 38-year-old Griffith Joyner died in her sleep at her Mission Viejo home in suburban Los Angeles early Monday morning.

A family friend attributed the death to a heart-related problem. Rivera said the coroner started the autopsy Monday at 1 p.m.

Among the procedures was a toxicology test, which is done when the cause of death was unknown.

World heptathlon record holder Jackie Joyner-Kersey said Tuesday morning in a TV interview that her sister-in-law, even when tired, always found time "to put a smile on a young person's face."

"She accomplished amazing things on the track as well as off the track," Joyner-Kersey said.

A decade ago this week, "Flo Jo" won the first of her three gold medals at the Seoul Olympics, where her sister-in-law, six-time Olympic medalist and world heptathlon record-holder Jackie Joyner-Kersey, also starred.

Griffith Joyner still holds world records in the 100- and 200-metre dashes.

She set the 100 mark of 10.49 seconds in the quarterfinals of the 1988 U.S. Olympic trials at Indianapolis, and since then no one has even broken 10.60. At Seoul, she won the gold medal in a wind-aided 10.54.

Griffith Joyner then smashed the world 200 record in the Olympic final, clocking 21.34. American Marion Jones, with a 21.62 at the World Cup in South Africa earlier this month, is the only other woman to run the 200 in under 21.70.

Griffith Joyner retired from athletics after the Seoul Olympics, and she served as co-chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness.

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2	8/98/R	Compulsory Biology Laboratory, (One Lot), as follows:- Lot No. 1: Bio-Chemical Substances	25
3	12/98/R	Secondary Biology Laboratory, (One Lot), as follows:- Lot No. 1: Bio-Chemical Substances	25
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E) The Bids shall be opened on 18/11/1998, at 3:00 p.m. (Local Time).

Chairman of Special Tenders Committee



## S. Arabia pulls envoy from Kabul Taleban leader vows to oppose pressure

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Taleban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar said Wednesday the Afghan militia would not be swayed by outside pressure after Saudi Arabia withdrew its envoy from Kabul.

"As a proud Muslim nation, we will make all our decisions on the basis of principles of Islam," Omar told the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

Saudi Arabia Tuesday recalled its charge d'affaires from Kabul and called on Afghanistan's charge d'affaires to leave Riyadh, the official Saudi news agency SPA said.

The reclusive Taleban leader did not directly criticise the Saudi decision or refer to its political and diplomatic implications.

Saudi Arabia is one of only three nations, along with Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, that recognises the Islamist Taleban militia which now controls almost 90 per cent of Afghanistan.

The oil-rich kingdom is known to have given substantial financial assistance to the four-year-old ultra-orthodox Sunni Muslim militia which emerged from religious schools in 1994.

Omar said foreigners were trying to take over the "decision-making" process concerning the affairs in Afghanistan.

"They are not even ready to listen to our view point," he told the private news service.

However, the Taleban movement will continue to

concentrate on establishing peace throughout Afghanistan, he said.

Afghan observers said Saudi Arabia's decision could be linked with the presence in Afghanistan of Saudi multi-millionaire dissident Osama Ben Laden, blamed by both Riyadh and Washington for backing terrorism.

Riyadh has stripped Ben Laden of Saudi nationality and Washington accuses him of involvement in the twin bombing of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in August that killed more than 250 people including 12 Americans.

Taleban leaders have refused to hand Ben Laden over to any outsider but said they have imposed restrictions on him against engaging in any activity against any third country from the Afghan soil.

The U.S. launched a cruise missile attack on suspected terrorist bases of Ben Laden in eastern Afghanistan city of Khost on Aug. 20 which was strongly condemned by the Islamic militia while Omar vowed to protect the Saudi dissident at all cost.

Riyadh gave no reason for the decision which came amid criticism of the militia in the Saudi press. A Saudi newspaper Al Muslimun (The Muslims) on Sunday accused the Taleban of having an extreme idealism regarding Islam and called on the militia to be more realistic.

The Saudi move also followed Monday's decision

by a U.N.-sponsored international conference of the so called six-plus-two states to send U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi back to the region in a bid to defuse tensions between Iran and the Taleban and to revive the Afghan peace process.

In a joint statement the conference attended by Afghanistan's six neighbours — Iran, Pakistan, China, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as well as Russia and the United States — also called for a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

Taleban spokesman Abdul Hae Mutmaen said Tuesday the militia would cooperate with the U.N. envoy. But he stressed the Taleban administration represented a broad-based government supported by all nationalities in Afghanistan.

Analysts said the Saudi decision would be irksome for the Taleban, already locked in rising tension with its Muslim neighbour Iran. Tehran's relations with Taleban deteriorated following the murder of eight Iranian diplomats and an Iranian journalist when the militia seized the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif on August 8.

Tehran condemned the killings and deployed thousands of troops in battle ready positions along its border with Afghanistan.

Riyadh earlier urged both Iran and the Taleban to show restraint and to resolve their conflict in a peaceful manner.



FREE VANUNU: Israeli and foreign anti-nuclear activists protest in front of the Israeli prime minister's office on Tuesday, for the release of 'Nuclear spy' Mordechai Vanunu, a former nuclear technician jailed since 1986 for leaking details of Israel's atomic weapons program (AFP photo)

### Anti-nuclear activists urge Israel to free Vanunu

TEL AVIV (R) — A Norwegian anti-nuclear group said it had submitted a petition of one million signatures to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office on Wednesday demanding the release of Israeli nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu.

The group was one of several to demonstrate outside Netanyahu's office in occupied Jerusalem with calls for an end to Vanunu's imprisonment and an end to nuclear weapons production.

"This is a petition from 65 Norwegian organisations, mainly trade unions. Behind this petition there are one million members," said a representative of the Norwegian group.

"Vanunu has suffered enough and now it's time to release him," he said.

Vanunu, 43, a former nuclear technician at the Dimona nuclear plant in southern Israel, was sentenced to 18 years for spying in

1986 after telling Britain's Sunday Times newspaper that Israel had built more than 200 atomic bombs at the plant.

He has served two-thirds of his sentence, most of it in solitary confinement. A parole board ruled in May that he should complete his term.

Demonstrators chanted "Free Vanunu Now" while holding large photographs of the man who has become a symbol of Israel's anti-nuclear movement for daring to spill national secrets.

Anti-nuclear activists said Tuesday Israeli police had arrested 10 fellow activists trying to enter the Dimona plant to conduct a "citizens' inspection."

Israel makes no comment on its atomic programme except to say it will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East.

## Israelis file suit to block expansion of laboratory

NESS ZIONA (AFP) — Israelis living near a top secret bacteriological research laboratory have filed an appeal with the supreme court to stop its planned expansion. Israel army radio said Wednesday.

The court on Thursday will hear the residents' request, which is backed by Yosef Shvo, mayor of the town of Ness Ziona where the Biological Research Institute is located.

The institute, which employs some 120 scientists and 180 other staff, is seeking to add 13.5 acres of land to its site in the town of 25,000 located south of Tel Aviv.

The activities of the Ness Ziona institute are classified but foreign experts say the facility produces chemical and bacteriological weapons and antibodies for such arms.

The states attorneys' office, which is representing the institute before the supreme court,

said the foreign reports were "inexact" but said it was "not possible, for security reasons, to give further details on the institute's activities," army radio said.

Mayor Shvo called in an interview on the radio for an investigation by a "neutral agency" of the security situation at the biological centre before any expansion of the site.

"This is a problem which concerns not only Ness Ziona but also other nearby cities, including Tel Aviv," he said.

"Approving the expansion of the institute will further establish it in the centre of our town when what we want is to get it moved to a less densely populated area," he said.

Last week a former deputy director of the institute, Marcus Klingberg, was released after serving 15 years of a 20-year prison term for spying for the former Soviet Union.

The exact charges against Klingberg, now 80, were never made public and for the first 10 years of his detention authorities would not even acknowledge that he had been arrested.

The state refused for years to permit Klingberg's release despite his advanced age and failing health, claiming he remained a serious threat to state security.

He was finally released on condition he be accompanied 24-hours-a-day by persons authorised by the Shin Bet secret service and that all his communication with the outside world be monitored.

Last month press reports said four people had been killed and 25 injured in four separate accidents at the Ness Ziona plant which were never made public.

In one incident, according to the reports, authorities almost ordered the evacuation of Ness Ziona's population. But the office of Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a rare public statement about the institute to deny the report.

"No person has ever been killed in a work accident at the Biological Institute since its inception 45 years ago," the statement said.

Israeli regularly warns of the dangers posed by the development of chemical and biological weapons in Syria, Iraq and Iran, but has never acknowledged running similar programmes.

Last year two Israeli secret agents were arrested in Jordan after using a sophisticated poison in a botched attempt to kill a senior member of the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas.

The two spies were released only after Israel provided an antidote to save the life of the Hamas leader, Khaled Mish'al, according to Jordanian officials.

## Diplomats: Bounty still on Rushdie's head

TEHRAN (R) — A wealthy revolutionary foundation in Iran still has a \$2.5 million bounty on the head of British author Salman Rushdie even though President Mohammad Khatami says the issue is "completely finished," diplomats said Wednesday.

Khatami, who returned to a ceremonial welcome at Tehran airport on Wednesday, said on Tuesday shortly before leaving New York where he had addressed the U.N. General Assembly: "We should consider the Salman Rushdie issue as completely finished." Britain and the United States greeted the reformist Iranian leader's remarks with caution.

British officials said Foreign Secretary Robin Cook would seek clarification when he meets his Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharrazi at the United Nations on Thursday.

Khatami's statement appeared to constitute no substantive change in Iran's long-held position on the death sentence on the British author, diplomats in the Iranian capital said.

Iran's late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued the fatwa or religious

edict for blaspheming against Islam in Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses," shortly before the Shiite Muslim clergyman died in 1989.

The fatwa said any Muslim able to kill Rushdie had a duty to do so.

Iran says only the person who issues a fatwa can revoke or annul it and the Islamic revolution's founding father and spiritual leader is dead.

"Much will depend on whether the 15th of Khordad Foundation agrees to withdraw its reward for killing Rushdie," one Western diplomat in Tehran said.

"There hasn't been much sign of that so far. In fact, they increased it from \$2 million only last year." The foundation is a charity which helps poor families with funds from its activities in trade and manufacturing in factories confiscated after the revolution.

It is named for the date in the Iranian calendar when a 1963 uprising in the Shiite holy city of Qom was suppressed by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's security forces.

The autocratic, pro-Western

shah was eventually toppled in 1979 by a revolution that replaced the 2,500-year-old Persian monarchy with an Islamic republic.

Earlier this year Iran described the Rushdie affair, a major stumbling block to its improved relations with the West, as belonging to the "cold war" period and said it should not hamper Tehran's better ties with the European Union.

But the Indian-born writer remains in hiding and under constant guard by armed British police, and Britain says there can be no immediate prospect of ministerial visits between Tehran and London while the death edict remains in place.

The Iranian government has repeatedly said that the 15th of Khordad Foundation is not a state-run organisation and the government would not send agents to carry out the fatwa.

It has refused to give written assurances sought by the British government, which also wants an unequivocal statement by the government of Iran dissociating itself from the \$2.5 million reward for Rushdie's death.

### Iranian MPs lash out at liberal media

TEHRAN (R) — Two-thirds of deputies in Iran's parliament on Wednesday called for journalists who wrote against Islamic principles to be put on trial for threatening national security.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA said 180 of the 270 deputies, in a letter read out in parliament, backed supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's call for action against newspapers he accused of "abusing freedom of speech."

The deputies stressed in their letter that those who write against the principles of Islam should be confronted as those working against the security of the country," IRNA reported.

It also proposed that the Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry, with the Information Ministry, should "identify all those in the press who have targeted the faith of the people to enable the judiciary to deal with them within the Islamic penal code."

IRNA said a parliamentary committee had also called on officials to "give proper explanation of the duties of the mass media and a real definition of social freedoms in order to lead society towards calm and tranquillity."

The parliamentary action followed a crackdown by Iranian authorities against moderate publications, which began to thrive after reformist President Mohammad Khatami came to power last year on a platform of more freedoms.

In the past two weeks, authorities have closed down the moderate Touse newspaper, suspended several magazines and detained a number of journalists, including two IRNA officials.

Senior IRNA editors and reporters on Wednesday called for the immediate release of deputy managing director Mohammad Reza Sadeq and Alireza Khorvati, a senior editor, detained on Tuesday over a report on a failed assassination attempt against Mohsen Rafiqdoust, the head of a powerful economic foundation.

IRNA said the two were expected to be released on bail after colleagues collected 100 million rials (\$33,000) for the bond.

The two were questioned for five hours and detained at Tehran's notorious Evin prison after a complaint by Rafiqdoust, head of the Bonyad-e Mostazafan va Janbazan (Foundation for the Disinherited and the War Disabled).

Rafiqdoust, a veteran conservative political figure, escaped the attempt on his life earlier this month. Iranian media said he was not hurt in the attack.

The Bonyad is Iran's largest state-affiliated economic conglomerate, controlling most hotels and many other companies.

IRNA has been accused by conservatives of siding in some of its reporting with Khatami's backers.

## Buoyed by world support and favourable polls, Clinton launches own offensive

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton, revived by favourable opinion polls and ringing endorsement from one of the world's most respected leaders, has launched an offensive against the chief investigator in the Lewinsky affair.

The White House Tuesday lashed out at independent counsel Kenneth Starr for omitting from his report last week to Congress on Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky a statement by her to the effect that nobody had urged her to lie or attempted to buy her silence.

Clinton got a boost in polls taken after his videotaped testimony before Starr's grand jury on August 17 was released to the public on Monday. His approval rating in a USA Today/CNN/Gallup snap poll shot up six points to 66 per cent from a day earlier, and the same proportion of respondents believed he should not be impeached by Congress.

And Clinton's image around the world was made very clear by South African President Nelson Mandela, who at a White House reception Tuesday said all of Africa was behind Clinton, as was

the rest of the world.

"Our morality does not allow us to desert our friends," the venerable leader said. Clinton's lawyers charged that the evidence Starr omitted from his report could clear Clinton, and hinted that a possible backlash would further strengthen his political standing.

"It is plain now... that the Office of Independent Counsel (OIC) has significantly distorted the testimony of Ms. Lewinsky, quoting it when it suited the OIC's purposes and downplaying it or ignoring it when it did not," attorneys Charles Ruff and David Kendall said in a stinging letter to the House Judiciary Committee.

The allegedly selective use of the ex-White House intern's statements add up to a "critical flaw" in the report, which "is stunning in its silence about evidence that supports the president," they said in their three-page letter.

Earlier in the day, White House spokesman Michael McCurry said that a flood of material released Monday showed "how grossly unfair" the Starr report was.

Along with a four-hour video of Clinton's testimony

before Starr's grand jury, the Republican-led Congress on Monday released some 3,000 pages from the report into possible impeachable offenses.

In a 445-page referral (Starr) found room for hundreds and hundreds of salacious details that, you know, titillated this country and embarrassed this country in the world," McCurry said.

"But it didn't find room for one sentence in the testimony of Monica Lewinsky, quoted today, 'I would just like to say that no one ever asked me to lie, and I was never promised a job for my silence,'" McCurry said. "That is a grievous wrong to the president."

Starr's report to Congress listed 11 grounds for possible impeachment, accusing the president of obstructing justice, tampering with witnesses, and perjuring himself in trying to conceal his affair.

On Tuesday, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde said his panel had finished sifting through 13 boxes of OIC evidence and had four left to review, most of which is expected to become public.

Discussion of reported

Democratic efforts to work out a plea bargain for Clinton "is very, very premature," Hyde said. "I don't know of any substance to it. It's way premature to discuss it."

However, The New York Times Wednesday said several Democrats had launched an aggressive behind-the-scenes campaign to save Clinton from impeachment and build support for a censure deal in which the president would be harshly rebuked by Congress, perhaps made to pay a large fine.

The strategy, the sources said, involved back-channel contacts with former Senate leaders Bob Dole and Howard Baker and former President George Bush, all Republicans. One Clinton aide told the daily the president had begun calling party leader and Democrats in Congress to signal that he was open to a censure deal.

"The president wants to end this as soon as possible," said the unnamed adviser who had spoken to Clinton by telephone. "He wants to get back to governing and running the country. If a reasonable deal can be put on the table, he will accept it," the adviser said.

### Theatre critics find Kidman's not just a pretty face

LONDON (AFP) — Stripping off in a steamy London theatre production when you're a glamorous Hollywood film star is possibly not the best way to convince sceptical critics of your stage talent, but on Tuesday night Nicole Kidman did just that. The multi-millionaire actress chose a risque number to make her London stage debut, but in doing so, delighted the 250 spectators and earned praise from the capital's often fierce theatre critics. For the acting profession's minimum weekly fee of \$417, Kidman plays five different women involved in tumultuous love affairs in David Hare's "The Blue Room," adapted from Arthur Schnitzler's "La Ronde."

### Schumachers expecting new baby

BONN (AFP) — Double Formula One champion Michael Schumacher and his wife Corinna announced Wednesday the arrival in seven months' time of a second baby, in an interview with the tabloid Bild. "We are hugely delighted," Schumacher told the paper, about the imminent arrival of a new brother or sister for 19-month-old Gina. Michael and Corinna, both 29, have their hearts set on a big family of "three or four children," the racer told Bild. The announcement comes ahead of Schumacher's bid to beat Finland's Mika Hakkinen in Sunday's Luxembourg Grand Prix at the Nurburgring circuit.

### Singers nominated for induction into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

CLEVELAND (R) — Bruce Springsteen, Paul McCartney and Billy Joel were among the recording stars nominated for induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for 1999, a spokesman said. Other nominees included heavy-metal pioneers Black Sabbath, doo-wop groups the Flamingos and the Moonglows, and many others. The induction process is overseen by the New York-based Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation, which mails ballots to an international group of more than 800 artists, producers, broadcasters, writers and music industry executives.

### Britain's youngest sailor bullied into quitting

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's youngest sailor has quit after repeated bullying by older shipmates at sea, the defence ministry said Wednesday. The Royal Navy was inquiring into the treatment of mechanic David Allen, who joined the destroyer HMS Cardiff at the age of 16. It is understood that Allen — now 17 — complained that he was hit on several occasions after making routine mistakes and was regularly verbally abused and singled out to perform menial tasks. He has been flown back to his home in Havant, in southern England, from Naples in Italy after being granted compassionate leave.